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Issue No 149
Available from Wednesday,
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makes an impact
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Helping you make
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MISTY KNIGHTS AT CASTLE

Mounted knights and foot-soldiers were in action at Dover Castle at the weekend in a re-creation of the siege of the fortress which took place in 1216.

An army raised by rebel barons and supported by the French besieged the castle in the Middle Ages after they rose up in revolt against King John. Historical interpreter Mark Wallis took on the role of the king's knight Sir Hubert de Burgh, who successfully defended the castle.

A large crowd enjoyed the event - made even more atmospheric by Saturday's mist and fog.

EXCLUSIVE

BY MATHEW BEECH

AN ARTIST has been offered land near Dover for his own Angel of the South.

Ian Morrison, from Wingham, has been given use of the former Ministry of Defence land, near Dover, for his 100ft Invicta Horse sculpture.

The land, once owned by Eurotunnel, is now in the hands of a private group, which has told the sculptor, pictured above, that he can locate the Kentish symbol there.

The land, just off the A20 near Folkestone, means the horse could be seen from France.

Mr Morrison said: "It still needs planning permission, but this should be possible. Kent County Council and Dover District Council support the idea."

"I designed it out of anger against the Ebbsfleet horse. I've had a huge response and hopefully it will be ready before the Olympics."

The artist is hoping that the project will be partially funded by Kent people who will be willing to pay to have their name engraved into the statue.

"It will stay there as long as people want it, because it will be made from galvanised steel plates."

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your lifestyle

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Military mayhem
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GOING TO WASTE: There are currently more than 1,800 homes in Dover registered as empty

Plans to get more than 200 empty homes on market

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

DELAPIDATED and empty properties are an increasing problem in Dover.

More than 1,800 homes in the town are registered as empty, while the amount that have been vacant for more than six months has risen by 41 per cent.

The amount of uninhabited homes is 3.1 per cent, above the national average of 3.7 per cent and the third highest in Kent, behind Ashford (4.1 per cent) and Thanet (4.8 per cent).

In a bid to tackle the plague of abandoned properties, Dover District Council has outlined a plan of investment to boost the housing stock.

Repair

The aim is to reintroduce 207 previously empty houses and flats back into the property market for 2010/2011.

During 2008/09, £625,000 in loans were given out to help reintroduce 36 flats into the property market, while a further £600,000 has been lent to developers to repair a further three houses and 25 flats.

These loans are a crucial part of getting derelict and houses in disrepair back into a habitable condition,

because the cost of renovating a home is more than £30,000.

One of the properties that have been brought back to life through this scheme is the Metropole Hotel in Cannon Street.

The hotel had remained derelict for more than 15 years before the programme of renovation created 28 one and two bedroom flats which now form part of the local housing associations portfolio.

Another property to benefit from being renovated is the new Warehouse Caves Court on Worthington Street.

The old Victorian warehouse was not in use during 2008, but via the No Use Empty initiative it has been given a new lease of life as apartments.

A council spokesman said: "The Empty Homes Strategy underpins the council's draft Housing Strategy 2010-2015, which aims to build sustainable communities by delivering good quality new homes, including affordable housing, and improving the condition of the existing housing stock and making better use of it."

"The Empty Homes Strategy includes an assessment of the issue of empty homes across the district, and the actions the Council intends to take to tackle this issue."

Public to have ultimate say in council's future

THE future of how Dover District Council is run will be reassessed after a public consultation.

Two alternative options for how the local council will be able to make decisions have been proposed and will be enforced from May 2011.

The current system sees a directly elected council select a leader, who then appoints a cabinet of up to nine people every year.

The first of the alternative methods, option A, follows a similar path to the system used at present.

A directly-elected council would appoint a leader, but under the new method they would serve a four-year term. They would still select a cabinet of no more than nine people but also select a deputy leader, who would also serve for four years.

Under this system, the leader could be removed by a resolution from the councillors.

Radical

Option B would see a more radical change, with a Mayor being elevated by voters alongside councillors at local elections.

The newly-elected Mayor would appoint a deputy Mayor to serve for four years alongside them, as well as selecting a cabinet.

The council would decide whether to continue to have a traditional, civic and ceremonial chairman or whether the directly elected Mayor could carry out these functions. There would be no provision to be able to remove the directly elected Mayor.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, July 28, Dover District Council stated its preference for option A, but no decision will be made until December 1 this year following the public consultation.

To submit your views on the prospective changes, the Council are asking for your opinions via letter, email or by phone.

All letters should be addressed to: Democratic Services Manager, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent CT16 3PJ.

Emails should be sent to democraticservices@dover.gov.uk with 'new executive governance arrangements' as the subject.

To discuss the options, call the democratic support team on 01304 872304.

The public consultation ends on Friday, October 28.

For more information, you can visit www.dover.gov.uk.

Teenager lives a dog's life in training camp

A CANINE loving teenager has taken her loyal companions to Leicester for a national training camp.

Fern McDonnell, 13, travelled with pets Lola and Carly to the training base at Booksby College, near Melton Mowbray, for a week with the Young Kennel Club.

At the college, the Dover sea cadet had the chance to meet fellow owners and develop her dog handling skills.

The week away came as a bonus for the teen, who already attends weekly obedience and agility classes with her dogs and has just embarked upon her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Fern McDonnell said: "My dogs provide hours of fun and laughter, and there is never a dull moment when they are around. At camp I am looking forward to learning new skills

and meeting new people with them."

The Young Kennel Club National Training Camp covers most canine interests including dog handling, agility, obedience, heelwork to music, and the good citizen dog scheme which is the largest dog training programme in the UK.

A typical day includes four one-hour training sessions, a selection of team time activities and most days include a workshop or interactive educational session, while evenings involve games nights, discos and talent shows.

The camp also incorporates the Cani-Cross, which is a cross country run for members and their dogs.

This is open to everyone and dogs of all sizes and encourages a healthy lifestyle while strengthening the bond between pet and owner.



FERN HAND: Fern McDonnell with her dogs

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She's the slowest in the world

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

A WORLD record that stood for 87 years has been blown out of the water as a swimmer crossed the Channel in the longest time.

Jackie Cobell broke the record which has stood since 1923 by more than two hours, and has so far raised more than £4,000 for charity.

The 56-year-old swimmer, from Five Oak Green, near Tonbridge, took the title for the longest England to France cross-channel swim by posting a time of 28 hours and 44 minutes.

The foster mum started the swim on Saturday, July 24, and swam night and day, crossing busy shipping lanes in total darkness, until she reached the French beaches on Sunday.

Threatened

She completed the swim despite suffering a relapse of a shoulder injury half way across the Channel, which seriously threatened the challenge.

Mrs Cobell recalls the moment she reached France as a moment of pure disbelief.

She said: "Reaching the sand at Calais was fantastic, as I had finally done it."

"It was one of the most fantastic feelings in the world. I was in total disbelief that I had done it."

Her attempt to cross the Channel had already been put at risk by a long-standing shoulder injury which required surgery two years ago.

The recovery and time spent in physiotherapy delayed the swim, although during the swim, the injury flared up again.

Jackie said: "The injury happened about half way across. I felt a tear, a rip and a gristly feeling in my shoulder."

"I'd been seeing the physio since February and told him I was due to swim in September



Picture: GEOFF ROBINSON

TAKING HER TIME: Jackie Cobell has broken the world record for the slowest swim across the Channel. She took 28 hours and 44 minutes to complete the draining crossing.

and had arranged a steroid injection a month before.

"I got a phone call saying there was a slot available earlier and I decided to go for it. I did not want to miss the chance to swim."

One of her goals behind tackling the marathon swim was to get fit and lose weight. Five years ago, Jackie topped the scales at 20 stone and suffered from high blood pressure.

Now, after years of training, her weight has fallen to 12 stone and she is a record-holder

for one of the world's most demanding swims.

Jackie said: "I thought Channel swimmers were athletes and the elite few. Then I found out it is all down to putting in the training and hard work, and that anyone can do it."

Jackie has received the support and generosity of friends and family, as well as fans and complete strangers who have all passed on their words of congratulations and donated money to the Huntingdon's Disease Association.

Jackie said: "There has been a tremendous response and I only set up the website a week and a half ago. Donations have been happening every minute and it brings tears to my eyes. I can't thank people enough."

"I chose the Huntingdon's Disease Association because my cousin's wife has it. There isn't a cure, so the money will go towards research to help find one."

To pass on messages of congratulations and donate, visit www.justgiving.com/jackiecobell.

MP urged to back hospital

DOVER MP Charlie Elphicke has been urged to make getting a new hospital in the town a priority.

The Labour opposition group pursued the matter at a council meeting on Wednesday last week and introduced a motion to support the construction of a community hospital.

Leader of the Opposition Labour group, Gordon Cowan, said: "Since the election, the Conservatives and Lib-Dem majority on Dover District Council have been silent on the question of whether they still support the building of a community hospital in Dover."

"The coalition government that they represent seems hell bent on slashing all building projects, and it was clear that the coalition councillors were more interested in giving their friends in Downing Street an excuse for not building a community hospital."

Various sites have been proposed for the new hospital and Charlie Elphicke supports a general hospital with doctor-led emergency care in Whitfield.

Cllr Cowan also said: "The MP may have been able to use his 'big idea' for health to get elected, but his local colleagues have now clearly backed a community hospital."

"The MP needs to show that he can deliver a much-needed community hospital for Dover."

Woman hit by teenage driver who lost control

A WOMAN was seriously injured and had to be air-lifted to hospital after being hit by a teenage driver on Sunday morning.

The church-goer was on her way to morning service at Charlton Church when she was run over at 9.50am in Frith Road, opposite Dover Girls' Grammar School.

The middle-aged woman suffered serious head and leg injuries and was taken by air ambulance to Romford Hospital in Essex.

She is said to be in a stable condition.

The air ambulance landed at the junction of Frith Road, Barton Road, Old Charlton Road, Connaught Road and Castle Avenue.

Two other pedestrians were involved in the accident – a mother and her teenage daughter.

The mother suffered bruising, while her daughter was taken to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford with leg injuries.

Police closed off the road for several hours while officers from the Serious Crash Investigation Unit examined the scene.

The accident happened when an 18-year-old driving a black Vauxhall Corsa spun 180 degrees before colliding with the three pedestrians.

Parish priest Father Colin Johnson

said: "I got a phone call from the church warden and I got changed and went straight down there."

"I've spoken to the mother and daughter and they are still feeling the effects of shock. They couldn't believe it."

"Without pre-judging, we have been concerned for some time about the speed of traffic as they come around the sharp bend, especially with schools only yards away."

"There have been previous accidents along here with pupils from the school, and someone from our congregation was run over a few years ago."

"The road seems to have a problem with speed, with it being downhill and the traffic wants to get through the traffic lights."

"The victims were on the pavement when the car spun, and they ended up trapped between the car, the wall and the pillar box."

"We immediately opened the church, lit candles and prayed for them."

"We have sent them a message from the church family, letting them know we are thinking of them and hope to see them soon after a swift recovery."

Witnesses should contact PC Matthew Bensted on 01304 218094.

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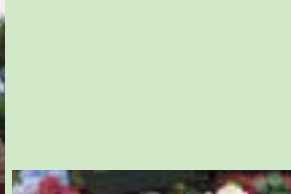
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IN NEED OF SUPPORT: Western Heights is one of the many heritage sites which needs cash for vital repairs

Heritage left to crumble in the financial crisis

ANGLO-SAXON graves, prehistoric barrows and Martello towers are among more than 100 heritage buildings and sites across Kent at risk of falling down or being destroyed.

English Heritage has highlighted the monuments, castles, cathedral buildings or fortifications that could be lost unless restoration work is carried out.

And experts say the economic situation is making it harder to obtain money to support the work, with many contractors unable to take on jobs unable to complete repairs that have already been started.

Among the 113 sites under threat are Martello towers numbers 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9, which are sited along the coast between Folkestone and Hythe.

The impressive Western Heights fortifications in Dover are also in a precarious state, as is Fort Burgoyne in Guston and St Radigunds Abbey, Hougham.

Ancient sites – including graveyards – in Great Mongeham, Worth, Sutton Hill, Swingfield and Lympe are also on the list.

The Shell Grotto in Margate is another site with problems – while the more up-to-date Dreamland Cinema has also been highlighted.

Period properties along Sandgate high

■ BY NICK AMES

street, which has a number of impressive buildings, also have problems.

But Westenhanger Castle's barn has been removed from the list after extensive work.

The 2010 list is the third that English Heritage has compiled and development pressure is taken into consideration as well as neglect and decay.

Andrew Brown is planning and development regional director for the South East for the conservation group.

He said: "The global financial recession and its consequences are having an impact on progress in dealing with Heritage At Risk."

"Funding is becoming ever more difficult to obtain and competition is increasing for scarce public grants and subsidies."

"It is also becoming harder to find developers with the will and resources to take on the most difficult cases."

"At some sites, even though plans have been agreed, work will not start until the economy recovers."

"Elsewhere, improvement or repair work has been partially completed when contractors have gone into receivership."

Mr Brown said that safeguarding the country's heritage would be difficult even when the country emerges from recession.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Join clucking good count

GREEN group Deal With It has launched an online survey for those keeping or considering keeping chickens at home.

Keeping the birds has become very popular in recent years and they are now a common feature of many a garden or allotment.

Walmer resident Jill Cliff said: "We started keeping three hens just over a year ago in our garden. It's great having fresh eggs every day, and the hens are a real joy to look after. Whilst being really easy to keep, you do have to be aware of their welfare needs."

Rosemary Rechter, Deal With It co-ordinator, said: "A number of our supporters keep chickens at home or are mulling it over. This got us thinking just how many urban chickens were there in the district. We hope to answer that question with the count and get a local support group off the ground."

The move is part of the bid to get more people interested in becoming self-sufficient.

Efforts to protect young

PROPOSALS to increase safety in the area around Sandwich Infant School for pupils, parents and staff have been discussed by members of the town council.

A suggestion that flashing lights should now be installed along the roadside warning motorists of the proximity of the school was supported. Councillors also voted to "actively encourage" Kent Highways to put in a pedestrian crossing in Strand Street to further improve access to the school for those on foot.

The council also wants to form a Sandwich Traffic Forum.

Forge to help the animals

THE Olde Forge furniture store in Deal is having a closing-down sale to raise money for abused and abandoned animals.

Vic Aubourg, owner of The Olde Forge and Hoppy's Shop in the heart of the town, says he can no longer afford to run both properties and must sell one.

He said: "At the moment the shops are run by family members and volunteers, so we need to sell one to keep the other going. The idea is to raise as much as we can for abused animals that need to be rehomed or treated."

The Olde Forge, at 156 High Street, will be closing on Thursday, September 30.

Art shows the brighter side of boards

ARTIST Penny Bearman has the job of brightening up the streets of Dover – after doing the same for her hometown of Deal.

She is currently using boarded up buildings across the town as her canvas, painting scenes to do with the sea and ships.

So far a seascape, the interior of a cruise liner and its passengers have all been painted onto boards in the town near the seafront.

"When I see a board it's like a red rag to a bull and I just want to paint on it," said Penny, whose work has the backing of both town and district councils.

Paint is donated by Steve Black, a Deal businessman.

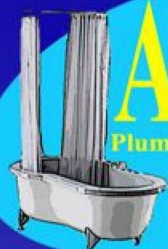
"I started out with my work being exhib-



ited in galleries and this large scale painting is a bit of a departure," said Penny. "It's good to be able to brighten up a place. Boarded up buildings look so drab and suggest an area is in decline."

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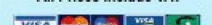


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Brian snaps up title to put work in the frame

■ BY HARRY COLLINS

A MODEL from Sandwich has earned Dover photographer Brian Brown the top award at a prestigious competition.

The winning photograph was a portrait of former Sandwich Technology pupil Amy Roberts.

The black-and-white image gained Mr Brown first place in the contemporary-portrait section of the Master Photographers' Association contest (South East region).

He came first and second in this category, the highlight of a successful event for the photographer.

Mr Brown, from River, said: "I was delighted to do so well, getting first and second place in the contemporary portraits. There were 250 entries in all the categories and there was a lot of competition in this section."

He described model Amy as "vibrant and bubbly, very, very good to work with".

"We have worked with Amy before and I think this helps because she is used to our directions and instinctively goes with what we ask and we got some fabulous pictures that day," he said.

There was yet more success for Mr Brown, who, after dominating the contemporary-



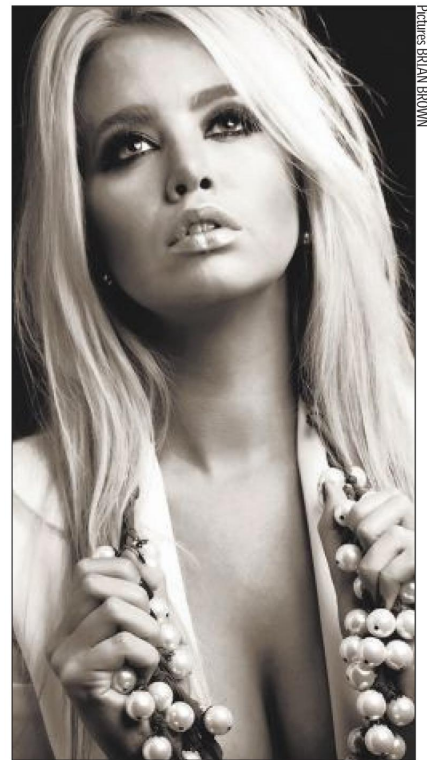
portrait section, went on to gain second place in the fashion-and-beauty category before capping off the evening by earning a merit in the classical-portrait class.

Mr Brown, who has been a professional photographer since 1995, was thrilled by his results in the competition.

He said: "If an image wins, then it obviously means that everyone likes it."

"I think there were some very good photographs there, but I am always looking for an image to wow people."

With such success across the board, Mr Brown hopes that his achievements will have



WINNING SHOTS: Above and left, competition entries by Brian Brown (pictured inset receiving his award) at the Master Photographers' Association contest

a positive impact on his work. He said: "I hope that the publicity will generate more business for me so that I can relax and get the very best from clients when photographing them."

Mr Brown produces a range of photographs, from weddings to individual portraits, and is available for tuition classes.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

PHIL G



Q Tell us something about yourself

A I am the artist-in-residence at Chimaera Gallery, Tontine Street. I have painted professionally for more than 20 years. My work covers a range of subjects including portraits, landscapes, abstract – I paint anything that inspires me.

My work is heavily influenced by my favourite artists, the Surrealists.

Q What first interested you in art?

A That I could do it! I prefer the creative side of art to the academic side. I have always been interested in creativity in many forms and to me painting is a natural progression for anyone who has a creative mind.

Q What is your connection to Folkestone?

A I moved here 30 years ago – and have never been able to leave! I think I'm part of the furniture now.

Q What do you think of Folkestone's largely arts-based regeneration?

A It's really good to see the changes that are taking place and I regularly chat to new artists in Chimaera Gallery, which is in the heart of the Creative Foundation's regeneration area, Tontine Street.

There is still a lot to be done, though. At Chimaera Gallery we represent many local artists and of course we rely on sales to keep us going.

It would be good if more people knew what's going on in Folkestone and came to look around some of the small businesses in the Creative Quarter.

Q What is your favourite type of artwork and why?

A Surrealism. To me, it fits all aspects of art – it can be serious, it can be funny. I find it very inspiring.

Somehow surrealism is more about what goes on inside the head than outside. It taps into the subconscious and reflects feelings and emotions.

Q How can people find out more about you and your work?

A I'm in Chimaera Gallery every Wednesday and Thursday – visitors are very welcome. You can pop in for a chat and a browse. There are some photographs of my work on our website at www.chimaeragallery.co.uk.

Q Is there a particular piece of artwork that inspires you?

A I am inspired by many of the works of the Belgian painter Magritte.

He once said: "My painting is visible images which conceal nothing; they evoke mystery

and, indeed, when one sees one of my pictures, one asks oneself this simple question 'What does that mean?' It does not mean anything, because mystery means nothing either, it is unknowable."

Magritte taught me how to look at things differently.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A I love anything creative. A big hobby of mine is gardening and I have created my own outdoor space which is based on serenity.

My garden includes many different features – there is a water feature, mirrors, sculpture and many, many different plants and flowers. It is very calming, a bit of a spiritual oasis away from the madness of life.

Q Tell us something not many people know about you

A I was in the Boy Scouts. Other than that, I am dyslexic in writing.

When I was at school – many years ago – the condition wasn't recognised and no support was given to children with literacy problems.

When I was 14, I had a reading age of nine and couldn't spell. I have never been able to take on jobs that require writing.

However, I do believe that this disadvantage led to my creativity. I have always worked with my hands – I do all sorts of DIY, decorating, gardening – and, of course, painting.

Q & A

The painter whose work is featured at Folkestone's Chimaera Gallery speaks to **James Alexandre** about his introduction to art, surrealism, Magritte – and why he attributes much of his creativity to his dyslexia

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Picture PHIL WYBORN-BROWN

TRADITION: Brigadier Simon Wolsey OBE receives the Key to England from Lord Boyce

New man holds Key to England

THE new Deputy Constable of Dover Castle has been unveiled at a ceremony.

Brigadier Simon Wolsey OBE was inducted as the 211st Deputy Constable of Dover Castle on Thursday, July 22.

Following tradition said to date back almost 1,000 years, Brigadier Wolsey was handed the Key to England and the Statutes of Dover Castle as symbols of his office.

The ceremony was presided over by Admiral the Lord Boyce, Constable of Dover Castle and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, roles that have been combined since the 13th century.

Successive Army commanders in south-east England have held the role of Deputy Constable since 1868 and Brig Wolsey has recently taken over the 2

(South East) Brigade at Shorncliffe.

Speaking after the ceremony, held in the Constable's Tower, Brig Wolsey said: "It is a great honour and privilege to hold this historic position."

"While the role of Deputy Constable is largely ceremonial these days, it symbolises the important role of the Army in the south-east of England and the continuing requirement for community engagement."

The appointments of Lord Warden and Deputy Constable are said to pre-date the Norman Conquest by 16 years, originating in 1050.

Right Reverend Trevor Wilmot, Bishop of Dover and Chaplain to the Lord Warden, was at the ceremony and gave it his blessing.

Time is running out for council tenants to give their views

■ BY NICK AMES

THERE are only a few weeks left for council-housing tenants and leaseholders to give their views on proposals to improve their services and be in with a chance to win £100.

A second consultation newsletter and survey is being delivered this week to all council tenants and leaseholders in Dover, Shepway and Thanet.

The newsletter summarises the councils' proposals to set up an 'arms length management organisation' (ALMO) to manage their housing services.

It also answers questions received from tenants about what is being proposed and gives readers another chance to complete the survey and win high-street shopping vouchers worth up to £100.

The aim of this is to make improvements to council-housing services received by more than 18,000 tenants and leaseholders in east Kent as well as achieve estimated savings of £1.5 million over the next few years.

More substantial savings could be achieved in later years through improved repairs contracts and bringing together administrative services.

Standards

By law, these savings have to be invested into improving the housing services.

The proposals will also mean more convenient access to housing services at weekends and in the evenings, a greater say for tenants in how things are run and a bigger role for tenants and leaseholders in setting the standards for the service they receive.

For the proposal to go ahead, a majority of tenants and leaseholders must support the plans.

More than 50 face-to-face events have already been held over the last few weeks and this has been supplemented by telephone and newsletter surveys.

Project manager Paul Bartlett said: "Whether you've already filled in a survey before or not, we still need to hear your views."

"We want to improve the services on offer to our tenants and leaseholders and we believe that these proposals will do just that."

"We want a housing service that people can be proud of and that is one of the best in the country."

Surveys are being sent to all tenants and leaseholders and can be returned by post. The survey can also be filled in online at www.thanet.gov.uk/sharedhousing

The closing date for surveys to be returned is Friday, August 13.

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Saturday 7th August

Captain Mildred

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Saturday 14th August

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Saturday 14th August

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Friday 20th August

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Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 21st August

Situation Vacant

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 21st August

Jeepster

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Thursday 26th August

Police Squad

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Friday 27th August

Job Knockey

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Saturday 28th August

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Could budget cut mean end of speed cameras?

■ BY NICK AMES

TRANSPORT chiefs at County Hall are to review the effectiveness of speed cameras – but they have ruled out a quick decision on the future of the network.

Councils across the country are considering scrapping the cameras altogether after the Government slashed £38 million of road-safety funding, but Kent County Council says it will review the situation before any decisions are made.

The authority has already slashed more than £500,000 from its speed-camera budget for this year as part of a £15m savings plan, in line with other local authorities in the UK.

Nick Chard, cabinet member for highways, said: "The Government has cut the grant for speed cameras and therefore we are going to pass that cut on.

"We have always seen speed cameras as potentially improving road safety and never as an income generator, but if there are some cameras that are not contributing to road safety then I would want to identify those.

"I want to discuss the cuts with the police and the safety-camera partnership because we haven't had the opportunity yet to properly reflect on what they might mean for the county."

When asked if KCC might follow the lead of other councils in scrapping some cameras, Cllr Chard replied: "I don't want to predict anything and I don't want to compromise the safety of road-users in Kent.

"It needs proper consideration rather than a very quick reaction."

As a result of the funding cut, councillors in Oxfordshire voted to switch off all 72 of the county's speed cameras from this weekend.

Networks in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Northamptonshire are also among those under review.

Earlier this year, the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership revealed that



DAYS NUMBERED? Budget cuts could mean that speed cameras are scrapped, to the delight of some Kent motorists

more than 33,400 speeding tickets were issued to motorists in 2008-09, earning more than £2m for the central-government pot.

But despite claims by the partnership of a 63 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured since 2002, motorists' groups say they want the cameras gone.

Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers, said it was bad driving rather than excessive speed that caused accidents.

"There may be a few accident blackspots where speed cameras do a good job, but not

many. We regard them as an excuse for revenue-raising. The money might not go back to the council, but it ends up in the public purse," he said.

"I just hope that if they're taken away it doesn't open the door for more speed-humps and 20mph limit zones."

The move to discontinue central funding for speed cameras was included in the coalition agreement.

Road safety minister Mike Penning said the Government was delivering on its pledge to "end the war on the motorist".

Electoral reform scheme 'doesn't go far enough'

A PLANNED referendum on electoral reform offering a change to the 'alternative vote' system has been met with cross-party derision in Kent.

Next year the public will be asked if it wants to abolish the current 'first-past-the-post' format for electing MPs – a referendum agreed by the Conservatives when forming the coalition with the Lib Dems.

Under the alternative vote (AV) system proposed, voters rank candidates in order of preference. Anyone receiving more than 50 per cent is elected, otherwise the person with the fewest votes is eliminated and their backers' second choices are counted.

However, some of Kent's most outspoken politicians say such a reform does not go far enough in ensuring a Parliament that is truly representative of the public.

Former UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, said the AV system would make very little difference to the current make-up of the House of Commons.

He added that many parties preferred the AV+ system, in which there is a top-up group of MPs whose election is based on regional votes for parties.

Preferential

Mr Farage, a South East MEP, said: "AV is preferential but still not proportional. You could still end up with a party like ours that attracts more than a million votes but still doesn't get any MPs.

"Nick Clegg has let his party down because this is not what they fought for."

The referendum, due to be held on May 5 next year, will pose the question "Do you want the United Kingdom to adopt the 'alternative vote' system instead of the current 'first past the post' system for electing MPs to the House of Commons?"

Shepway Lib Dem councillor Peter Carroll, who lost out to Tory rival Helen Grant in the race to become Maidstone's new MP, admitted the AV system was not what most Lib Dems were looking for.

He said: "I can't see that the alternative vote is going to revolutionise the system.

"It's wrong that parties like UKIP don't have a representative in Parliament. I may not agree with their views, but a lot of people voted for them."

KCC Labour leader Leslie Christie said: "Last year was very bad for Labour. In the county council elections we received 17 per cent of the vote but only two per cent of the number of councillors, so there's a clear case of misrepresentation. Personally, I'd rather have a clear-cut government or council rather than one run by coalitions."

Cllr Christie's view is shared by Tory North Thanet MP Roger Gale, who added that the AV system was a "cop-out for people who can't make up their minds".

He said: "I don't want to create a situation where we are in perpetual coalition."

County MPs join call for referendum date change

FIVE of Kent's Tory MPs have signed an Early Day Motion calling for the voting-reform referendum to be moved because it clashes with devolved elections.

Mark Reckless (Rochester and Stroud), Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford), Adam Holloway (Gravesend), Bob Stewart (Beckenham) and Michael Fallon (Sevenoaks) are among 44 fellow Conservatives to have backed the motion.

They believe that holding the referendum on May 5 next year – the same day as the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and some local council elections – could "cloud the referendum debate".

Kent counts down to Olympic gains

TWO years from now the eyes of the world will be set on the UK as the Olympic Games return to London after 62 years.

An official launch marked the start of the countdown at the Olympic Park in east London on Tuesday last week.

Kent will feature prominently during the Olympics and Paralympics, with 37 training camps for thousands of competitors.

They include Margate beach, which will provide training facilities for volleyball teams, Brands Hatch for cyclists, and Ashford's Julie Rose Stadium for athletes.

Mike Hill, cabinet member for communities at County Hall, said the authority was working to maximise benefits to Kent.

"We've got a large number of contracts worth about £20 million and we're expecting more to come," he said.

Cllr Hill said KCC was also focusing on the Cultural Olympiad, which showcases the UK's arts and culture.

Asked how much money the Games could potentially bring to the county, Cllr Hill said: "The Open Golf next year is estimated to bring in £70 million through investment.

"That's bringing in a quarter of a million people, so we should bring in a substantial



GET SET, GO: Athlete Michael Johnson joins children at the Olympic Park to launch the two-year countdown

amount through tourism and business. We are very close to the Games, but we are also close to Europe."

To celebrate the countdown, sporting, cultural and art events took place as part of the Open Weekend challenge last week, when residents took part in activities ranging from belly-dancing to speed-drawing.

Sport and Olympic minister Hugh Robertson said it was a great opportunity to get involved in London 2012.

The MP for Faversham and Mid Kent was at

the launch of the countdown at the Olympic Park with London mayor Boris Johnson and former athlete and chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) Sebastian Coe.

Mr Robertson said: "London 2012 is in excellent shape. The construction phase is 70 per cent complete and the LOCOG has attracted an unprecedented level of commercial sponsorship.

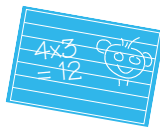
"We are making real strides in developing a meaningful sports legacy which will be announced in the autumn."

Last Tuesday's launch was also part of a new campaign to invite volunteers to help out at the Games.

Organisers are searching for 70,000 volunteers, and Cllr Hill said several thousand were already on the Kent database.

In Medway, thousands of people marked the countdown with a one-mile fun-run around Rochester. They were joined by sporting stars Paul Nihill, the 1964 Tokyo Olympic silver-medallist in the 50km walk, and Liz McVeigh, a member of the women's rowing team in the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

To sign up as a volunteer, you can go to www.london2012.com/volunteering.



BREAK TIME



Mary Poppins pops along to St Peter's

PUPILS, staff and parents all played their part in a production of Mary Poppins at St Peter's primary school, Folkestone.

Governors, grandparents and members of other schools made up the rest of the cast, who rehearsed weekly from January to March and then several times each week from April.

The shows, on July 14-16, included such special effects as cannon blasts, light-up fingers and Mary's magic carpetbag.

Director Michelle Charlton-Taylor said: "The children have done well, learned their lines and improved their acting skills."

"Staff involvement was exceptional and the audiences jumped with fright, laughed a great deal and sang along to all the old favourites."

Mary Poppins was played by teaching assistant Mel Wyn; year five pupil Maisie Sainsbury was Jane; and year six's Charlie Goodsell played Michael.

Bert was played by family-liaison officer Kim Adlington.

Passing on skills to the new power generation

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

PROSPECTIVE engineers jumped at the chance to bring their studies to life with a week-long work-placement at Dungeness B nuclear power station.

Students from the Marsh Academy in New Romney and Folkestone's Harvey Grammar were there as part of a long-standing arrangement between the power plant and local schools. Each student was given at least one employee at the station to shadow throughout their placement.

Josh Kirby, 15, from the Marsh Academy, said he was amazed by the equipment in the station turbine and enjoyed a tour of the control-room simulator.

He said: "Before my work experience at Dungeness B I didn't know how electricity was made – now I do. I enjoyed looking around the control-room simulator and was even able to trip the reactor at the press of a button, which was fun."

Josh said he hoped to apply for an electrical engineering apprenticeship at Dungeness B when he left school.

Jenny Hollingsbee, the academy's director of work-related vocational education, said: "The academy is quite an isolated school, so it's particularly important that large employers like Dungeness B are willing to provide opportunities for our students."

"The skilled, wide-ranging roles at the power station are always of interest to students."



EYES DOWN LOOKING: A work-experience student watches a Dungeness B member of staff during his placement

This month, a further six apprentices will start their training with Dungeness B. This is in addition to 23 apprentices from the region who are now going through their training at the power station.

The apprentices undertake a four-year training programme. The first two years are spent at the Royal Navy bases at HMS Sultan and HMS Collingwood, near Portsmouth, and

the final two years are based predominantly at Dungeness B.

Energy company EDF, which runs Dungeness B, opened a £3.5 million nuclear power academy in May 2008 in Gloucester.

In the same year it signed a £10m contract with specialist nuclear-training company Flagship, which employs some 55 new apprentices in the industry every year.

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Page 45



Pub times review to end drinking culture

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A REVIEW of 24-hour drinking has been welcomed by the voice of Kent's police officers, who branded the legislation "a mistake".

Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, said late-night boozing had created more problems than it had solved and resulted in fewer officers being available to fight crime during the day.

His comments follow the announcement by Home Secretary Theresa May that the Government is to crack down on binge-drinking and give communities more power to oppose 24-hour pubs and clubs.

The proposals could also spell the end for antisocial behaviour orders (Asbos).

Mr Pointon said: "I think the introduction of 24-hour drinking was a mistake.

"The idea was that we would somehow develop a Continental café culture, but that hasn't happened, especially in town centres.

"The feedback I've received from officers is that they've had more problems with people since the 24-hour laws came in.

"They're also working into the early hours, which means they're not available at other times of the day.

"It's time to say let's have a long, hard look at the licensing hours, coupled with the drinking culture in this country."

Mr Pointon's criticism is shared by Kent's former Chief Constable Mike Fuller, who warned against its introduction in an interview with KOS Media back in January 2005.

In a follow-up discussion in April 2006, Mr Fuller said: "I think the Government and the health authorities are going to have a very difficult task in changing the culture where young people go out and get totally drunk."

According to the Home Office, about one million alcohol-related violent crimes were committed last year, with a fifth of all violent incidents taking place in or around a pub or club.

Mrs May's licensing plans also include forcing late-night bars to contribute to policing costs and street-cleaning, as well as a ban on the selling of alcohol below cost price.

The latter suggestion will come as a blow to supermarket bosses who use cut-price beer and alcopop deals to lure shoppers into buying other goods from their stores.

Mr Pointon said some such offers were "irresponsible" – a view shared by the operations director of the Thanet-based Thorley Taverns pub chain, Phil Thorley.

He said: "I think 24-hour drinking is a bit of a myth because so few 24-hour licences have been issued.

"It's easy to blame everything on 24-hour drinking when it's the below-cost selling of alcohol in supermarkets that is at fault. You've only got to enter a park at night to see who is drinking and the problems it creates.

"Below-cost selling is good for supermarkets, but it's a real danger to our society."

Two apples a day keep doctor away

WE'VE all heard the expression about an apple a day, but who knew that if the dose was doubled, the benefits would grow even more?

New research suggests doctors could be worried if we all turned to Kentish apples to keep them away on a full-time basis.

The findings are from ISAFRUIT, a research project partly paid for by the European Commission. Its researchers found that if we ate a pair of apples a day, our cholesterol could be reduced by an astonishing 10 per cent.

Paddock Wood company Norman Collett Ltd is a member of the English Fruit Marketing Group.

Sarah Calcutt, its business development manager, said: "The health benefits of eating English apples as part of your daily diet are already well documented and researched.

"Now we are seeing the benefits that regular consumption of two

apples a day can have in helping reduce cholesterol levels."

American Tammi Flynn, a dietician and author of the 3-Apple-A-Day book, claims an apple before every meal will help us lose three times the amount of weight than dieting attempts without the apples. She claims a triple dose of apples a day helped 376 people lose 6,312 pounds in 12 weeks.

The discoveries are backed by research carried out by Washington State University in the Sensory Evaluation Laboratory at the School of Food Science on Rubens and seven other varieties of apples.

It showed Rubens giving a balance between sweetness and sourness, with high apple-flavour intensity.

Colletts started exclusively planting the Rubens in 2007 and has seen demand soar 400 per cent – it now has 140,000 trees dedicated to this variety.



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your letters



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EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

Words of wisdom a refreshing change

How refreshing to read last week's blog from David Plumstead of Shepway Environment and Community Network.

Although I fear that unthinking, uncaring or disinterested people will keep the present Shepway council regime alive for many years, it is absolutely refreshing to learn that someone somewhere is aware of the appalling decisions that are being made.

This awful council is covering the district with tarmac, concrete and bricks and mortar faster than we can keep up with... still, as long as the developers are happy!

Nick Jones
Folkestone

Swamped by tidal wave of concrete

Well said, David Plumstead! What price the future of Shepway if our glorious council keeps allowing developers to make merry while the residents (remember them, anyone?) watch as where they live is swamped by a tidal wave of concrete.

Phil Smith
Hythe

Greens preferable to the old grey parties

Yet more waffle from Labour's Donald Worsley (last week's letters). He opposes the proposed vote for AV, but favours the iniquitous first-past-the-post system rather than the surely far fairer single-transferable-vote version.

The so-called coalition is hardly an advert for such as the Tories are acting as if they had a majority, with the Liberal Democrats tagging along on just because of a whiff of power and are now intent on decimating the decent public institutions that Labour, and indeed the Liberals, put in place.

Indeed they appear to be a sort of UK version of the USA's Tea (or Tax Evaders Alliance, in my view) Party as they privatise everything and introduce the cheapskate Big Society.

The last person to try such an idea during economic hard times was a certain Chairman Mao in the 1950s and 60s. We seem then to be going from Stalin Brown to Mao-Tse Cameron.

Despite this, Mr Worsley fails to defend public services be they the NHS, education or welfare; all due to be viciously damaged, along with the people working in or depending on them.

Indeed, as regards welfare, while we all know some who appear to be bone-idle, most are genuine cases and so many charities are warning that those with long-term and

your blogger

Motoring institute should stick to issues of driving rather than that of cyclists, suggests Gary Wright



THE Institute of Advanced Motorists is busying itself with the habits of drunk cyclists this week under the clever headline 'Pedals and Pimms don't mix'.

With absolutely no figures to back it up, Neil Greig, the IAM's director of policy and research, called for, well, more research into cycling accidents.

As the director of research, if he wants more research, don't tell us, just get on and organise it.

I was shocked to read you can be fined up to £1,000 for riding your bike on the road while drunk.

I have never seen such a court case and understand it's a technical issue of being in control on a public road, which would cost a fortune to gain a conviction – and I don't think our busy cops will bother.

Equally, I am surprised that IAM is bothering with this issue.

The IAM (that's the institute of smug drivers, not a the pet food manufacturer) points out "though drink-driving is socially unacceptable, many people would not think twice about cycling after consuming more than the legal blood-alcohol limit for driving".

And, there's another nugget of advice contained in its statement to the Press, where it points out that a lot of drunk cyclists will be riding home in the dark, "increasing the dangers involved".

It also says that if the cyclist is in a collision with another vehicle, "you are likely to come off worst". Well, who'd have guessed?

I'm sure someone at IAM believed it was worth a

statement to the Press, but there are a couple of points with which I shall take issue:

Firstly, be clear all you folk at IAM, drink-driving is illegal. Cycling while drunk is not. Since there is clearly a balance issue if you are absolutely drunk, I think it unlikely that you'll cycle home anyway, but you can at least cycle to the pub and then push it home.

Secondly, and more importantly, what the devil is the Institute of Advanced Motorists doing by concerning itself with such an issue? What next, drunks on foot who may stagger out into the road?

This kind of nanny-state demand for more research and, inevitably, more stupid legislation died with the last Labour government.

And good riddance. I don't much care for cyclists, as I have said before (and there is a part of me that believes they should pay road tax or get off the road).

But if an adult makes a reasoned decision to get from point A to B knowing that he (or she) may have one too many so they choose to take their pushbike, then well done them.

We have spent hundreds of thousands on cycle lanes, so if they use those, what business is it of smug drivers? If a drunk cyclist crashes into a hedge on their way home, that is their business and I don't particularly care.

And neither should the Institute of Advanced Motorists. It should stick to recruiting members with good-at-driving commentaries and 10 per cent insurance discounts for their 'advanced' drivers and let cyclists live their lives as they want to.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, Dave Mairs, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

Coalition gamblers will pay the price

The latest figures for economic growth in the UK of 1.1 per cent in the last quarter show just how wrong this coalition is to cut jobs and services so savagely in coming years.

This level of exceptional growth is not the result of instant budget cuts by Chancellor George Osborne, but the hard efforts of Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling, when in office, to support public services and keep people in work producing for the country rather than sitting idle on the dole.

That the main drive for growth came from the construction industry with a phenomenal 6.6 per cent growth rate was not due to coalition deficit-reduction measures, but the result of sustained investment in public building projects now ridiculed as a luxury by the coalition.

Investment in a massive school-building programme has now been slashed – as the pupils and teachers at Pent Valley College know to their cost.

Investment in much-needed new hospitals and wards is now mothballed by the crassly-named Office of Budget Responsibility.

And not least locally, investment in much-needed social and affordable housing for young

families is left to the mercy of the mortgage markets or Shepway's ever-appalling housing waiting list.

Chancellor Osborne may boast he has set out a path to restore confidence in the economy by dealing with the nation's deficit, but what he has really done is to gamble the nation's future growth and prosperity on a blind bet that political dogma will win out over economic reality.

A gamble that the Big Society will build our schools, hospitals and homes with volunteers and charitable donations rather than with skilled craftsmen and women with state-funding and good wages.

A gamble that, when it all goes wrong, will put back this country's economic recovery for a generation and make the unrest in Greece look like a toga party by comparison, so high are the stakes Mr Cameron and Mr Clegg are playing for.

One can only but hope 300-odd coalition MPs would prefer to join Gamblers Anonymous right now rather than chance their hand on Mr Osborne's ticket coming up trumps on a Euromillions rollover.

Donald Worsley
Folkestone

Vacuous Big Society an alibi for inaction

Prime Minister David Cameron's idea that people should be setting

up charities and social-enterprise companies to run services that should be provided by the state will mean poorer services in all areas.

What happens where there are shortages of volunteers?

With Kent unemployment twice as high as two years ago, we need jobs.

We need to tax fairly and close tax havens, actions which if taken would generate more resources and prevent spending cuts and job losses.

Two years ago, 56 post offices were closed across the county. Now Mr Cameron wants unemployed people to reopen them with a little help from the Government.

This is at a time when start-up capital for new enterprises is very difficult to obtain. More recently, the cuts in the police force have seen the loss of 200 training places.

These are essential jobs, but is the Government suggesting these should be covered by volunteers?

Areas that are already more deprived will simply not be able to take on the role of the state in providing services themselves.

The funding won't be there and we will see further inequality.

The Big Society idea is simply an alibi for privatisation and a refusal by the Conservatives and Lib Dems to provide fair and equitable distribution of essential services.

Simon Marchant
Kent Green Party

Disturbing questions about exam papers

NCT, the UK's largest parenting charity, has highlighted concerns that school exam papers may have been subject to the influence of commercial organisations.

The charity has come across two recent exam questions presenting inaccurate information that would benefit formula milk companies.

One of the questions, in a GCSE chemistry paper, presents a label for a fictional packet of infant formula milk as the basis for a question about calcium carbonate.

On several counts the information on this label is in contravention of UK regulations.

For example, it claims the milk is "pure and natural" and makes nutritional claims not permitted in UK advertising.

Charities working to support mothers who want to breastfeed are also negatively caricatured, in the guise of "Mrs I M Right", founder of fictional organisation Responsible Mothers Are Us.

The marking criteria for this paper only judge a student's ability to interpret the information, with no room to dispute the claims.

In another example, a SAT paper in Key Stage 3 demonstrates bias towards formula over breast milk, claiming fair comparisons between the two when the information is presented without context.

NCT has submitted its concerns to Ofqual and the Charity Commission, with a request for an investigation into commercial influence on exam papers.

Belinda Phipps
NCT chief executive

Ray Duff
Folkestone



CAREFUL! Two-thirds of road fatalities are in lanes

Focus on dangers of countryside driving

ONCE synonymous with slow Sunday drivers and tractors holding up the traffic, country roads were the means of escape from the urban grind.

But new figures have revealed they are now the scene for two-thirds of all fatal crashes, where motorists have put their foot down despite not knowing what was round the corner.

And as well as the tragedy of the deaths, a massive £1.6 million is spent on each fatal casualty alone.

To warn people of the dangers, a country-roads campaign has been launched by Kent Highway Services which looks to push home the message to drivers not to take speed to the limit.

Campaigners say the main reason for such a high proportion of fatalities is the inappropriate use of speed in constantly-changing driving conditions.

Steve Horton, Kent Highway Services road-safety team-leader, said: "The campaign is designed to reach everyone who drives in Kent. All drivers use a country road at some point."

Kent Highway Services hopes the campaign will make drivers realise the many hazards on rural roads.

Royal blessing puts county in films spotlight

THE Queen has given Royal Assent to a new law that allows authorities in Kent to shut down roads to allow big movies to be shot.

It has been greeted as great news for the county, which has become the first area outside London to gain the unusual power.

Films are big business and the Kent Film Office boasts that it has created £14 million for the county already since it was set up four years ago. This figure has reportedly been achieved through films paying for scenes to be shot in the county and the spin-off to local economies from visitors keen to see the locations.

Recent major movies made in Kent, at least partially, include *The Other Boleyn Girl*, at Penshurst Place, Dover Castle and Knole Park, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana; *Reese Witherspoon* in *Vanity Fair*; *Daniel Craig* in *The Golden Compass*; and *Sherlock Holmes* at the Historic Dockyard Chatham, starring Jude Law and Robert Downey Jr.

There have also been several other

■ BY MARIJKE COX

smaller titles like *The Calling* with Ramsgate actress Brenda Blethyn alongside Rita Tushingham, Amanda Donohoe and Academy Award-nominated Susannah York.

The BBC has also made films and series in Kent, including *Emma*, which starred Michael Gambon, Romola Garai and Jonny Lee Miller; and *Is Anybody There?*, in which Michael Caine played an elderly man grappling with his own mortality.

Poirot was filmed in St Margaret's Bay near Dover, while *Bob Hoskins* and *Sean Wilton* starred in *Ruby Blue*, which was filmed in Thanet.

Floodgates

The floodgates could now open for many more titles. Hollywood is constantly looking to England for unusual locations, but closing roads is always a red-tape hurdle that can take weeks to overcome. With the new law in place, it can be done much faster, theoretically making Kent much more attractive to producers.



SCENE: More stars may be following Michael Caine to Kent

Kent County Council said the push for the law showed its passion and support for business and the local economy by maximising the multi-million-pound benefits from the industry. It became an Act of Parliament much earlier than expected after passing through without objection, the authority said.

The Film Office reassured residents they would not be edited out of the loop and would be consulted should an application to close their road be made.

KCC said that, while the law gave legal powers to close roads, the Kent Film Office would continue to work with residents and businesses and take their needs into account.

Tanya Oliver, director of strategic development and public access, said: "This is really exciting for Kent. We can now offer filmmakers a real flexibility to meet their needs and that's going to make us an even more attractive prospect. I think our county is set for stardom that will benefit everyone."

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
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
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WOMEN
seeking men

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : **CHAT883** To : **65125 (T&C's below)**

LINDA larger lady, 61, likes TV, gardening, seeks male for time out and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338857

52YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde, brown eyes, kind, caring, smoker, overweight, seeks kind, caring, understanding male who likes history, theatre, cinema, meals out and coach trips. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380578

JENNY 44, attractive, slim and vivacious, would love to be seduced by an attractive, genuine, loving guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339703

CHERYL 40's, beautiful green eyed gal, very loving, seeks tall romantic male who thinks he can satisfy all her dreams. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339701

LORRAINE 35, lonely voluptuous brunette with s big personality, lots of love to give, seeks lovely older man who can make her feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339697

SAM beautiful slim brunette, big blue eyes, seeks attractive, intelligent, sporty male who knows how to have fun to sweep her off her feet. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339695

LIZ 62, 5ft 8ins, retired, seeks tall male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380754

LARGER lady, 61, WLTW solvent gent with own home for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339471

PETITE lady, early 70's, 5ft 3ins, nice figure, well dressed, likes days out, music, meals out, nights in, keep fit, seeks N/S gent 69-74. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339483

39YR old single mum, blonde hair, green eyes, 5ft 2ins, curvy, likes socialising, pubs, animals, clubs, seeks loyal male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380702

NICK 43, petite blonde, green eyes, seeks genuine guy for company, fun, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339115

FEMALE single mum, seeks male, 30-45 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339345

JANET 42, petite brunette, very loving, seeks tall well built passionate older male who can keep up with her vivacious nature but be loved in return. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339733

ELENA 33, generous warm hearted blonde girl, bubbly and outgoing would love to spread her wings with tall good looking older dark haired gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339731

SYLVIA 43, beautiful, petite blue eyed blonde, fit and active seeks attractive male to share relaxing nights in with good wine, great company, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339727

ANNA 32, loves male company and looking for fun times, seeks tall good looking guy to sweep her off her feet and just enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339725

JENNY 45, slim blonde with big blue eyes seeks special someone to brighten up her days and live up her nights. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339003

COME and join me for a bottle of wine in a hot soapy bath!! Need to be spontaneous too? Outgoing, confident and good looking! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339001

LARGER lady seeks gent, 60's for nights out, friendship and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338517

JAN 54, little auburn haired bundle of fun, wicked sense of humour, looking for uncomplicated fun with a tall dark haired male. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338933

VAL outgoing, compassionate brunette, enjoys life to the full, seeks someone nice to share good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338931

LUCY 30, chatty, bubbly brunette, shy until you get to know me, looking for a hunky male to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338929

ROMANTIC male needed by Vera, 42, beautiful, sexy brunette looking for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338925

49YR old divorced female, 5ft 2ins, blonde hair, 3 children, seeks male, 48-52 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338795

JULIE 44, medium build, single mum, honest, reliable, seeks slim-medium build male, 40-48, N/S. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338565

BRIGHT bubbly, curvy blonde, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male to share the fun loving side of life with. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338461

DEBBIE 35, fun friendly brunette, lovely figure looking for similar attractive male for adult fun friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338431

MICHELLE 40, cuddly, bubbly brunette, up for anything, seeking average/well built male who knows how to enjoy life. Maybe with me! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338429

FEMALE 44, kind, generous, GSOH, genuine, caring, loving, likes animals, cinema, reading, walks, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338379

LINDA 45, seeks caring, understanding, hardworking gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338677

TILLY 52, larger lady, likes swimming, meals out, history, seeks friendly, fun, kind gent with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380546

JUNE slim blue eyed blonde likes a bit of fun seeks tall romantic male to share an intimate glass of wine at the end of a day. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339095

PAULINE pretty professional blonde, great curves, life and soul of any party, seeks tall, well built male with passion for life to get together with. Looks/unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339779

WIDOWER 50's, likes country walks, animals, reading, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338183

LARGER lady, 61, WLTW caring, affectionate male for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338183

TALL slim, attractive lady, late 60's, genuine, likes socialising, meals out, music, animals, seeks male, 65-70 for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380476

SENSITIVE caring female, likes meals out, countryside, coast, driving, gardening, seeks male, 58-64 for caring relationship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380450

CAROLE 62, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448

FUN young looking, attractive female, 49, GSOH, kind, caring, seeks male, 45-55 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338267

LOVELY sensual, shapely female, confident and adventurous, seeks experienced male for fun adventures. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336717

FEMALE early 50's, seeks likeminded male, 50-55 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380262

BRIGHT bubbly, curvy blonde, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male to share the fun loving side of life with. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338461

PASSIONATE nature loving lady, petite with long blonde hair looking for nice guy to spend quality time with and see how it goes. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338433

ANNE 46, slim, N/S, honest, kind, reliable, seeks slim-medium build male, 42-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337247

SINGLE fun loving female, 47, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, walks, seeks male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336876

43YR old female, petite, 5ft 1ins, single mum, OHAC, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337351

PAM 33, pretty, kind, loving brunette seeks funny laidback male for relaxing fun times with no ties. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337273

MANDY 40, petite, curvy brunette, big green eyes, seeks someone nice to share lots of cuddles, TLC and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337271

SARAH attractive, slim, 5ft 5ins, brunette, likes pubs, walks, travel, seeks male, 30-38 who is caring, exciting, confident and attractive. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337581

WANTED! Good looking, well built, honest male to make gorgeous curvy brunette, 28, happy again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338455

SUE 39, petite fun loving brunette, seeks tall, outgoing male who is full of surprises to keep her entertained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338453

DIANE 42, petite size 12, loyal, kind, nice, knows exactly what she wants, seeks attractive, male for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338435

PAT 64, petite, brown hair, blue eyes, young at heart, N/S, bubbly, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks likeminded gent of similar age for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337435

WOULDN'T it be nice? Cheerful female, late 60's, dog owner, likes gardening, walks, conversation, laughter, seeks similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337601

MICHELLE 43, long curly brown hair, sparkly green eyes, lovely figure, easygoing and affectionate, WLTW nice man for loving relationship. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337853

KATHY 40ish, passionate, outgoing, adventurous red haired lady looking for adventure seeks tall good looking guy for a relaxed no strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337851

MICHELLE 40, petite curvy brunette, cheeky and full of fun, seeks funny easygoing male to keep her company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337849

MICHELLE 41, stunning, seductive, dark haired nurse seeking sensitive male who likes a gal in a uniform for lots of off duty fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336715

RUTH young 64, attractive, kind, considerate, N/S, likes outdoors, socialising, many interests, seeks male for happy leisure time, friendship, LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380086

ATTRACTIVE young 42yr old female, size 12, voluptuous, seeks tall, athletic male, 35-55 for fun, excitement and happiness. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337817

FRAN young 52, happy go lucky, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338457

MARIE 60, dark hair/eyes, kind, honest, GSOH, varied interests, N/S, seeks gent, 55-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336807

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336721

CAROLE petite, slim, long blonde hair, green eyes, attractive, likes sports, nights out, pubs, meals out, cinema, theatre, music, seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, early 60's, GSOH, likes most things, fed up of kissing frogs, seeks genuine, caring male of similar age to share the good things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336515

GEORGIE 45, curvy, tactile blonde, bubbly and chatty looking for broadminded, fun loving, mature male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335563

ALI 25, petite with long brown hair and blue eyes, happy personality, knows what she wants, looking for dishy older guy to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335561

41YR old female, medium build, likes gym, walks, cinema, meals out, seeks kind hearted gent for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336161

YVETTE 46, attractive, blonde, blue eyes, likes keep fit, seeks younger male with GSOH for serious fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337925

SHIRLEY 74, 5ft 8ins, attractive, N/S, varied interests, seeks similar aged N/S male to share interests and time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337889

BEAUTIFUL exotic, very petite female, 44, loves to cook romantic meals in, seeks loving male to share relaxing nights with good wine, great company and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337855

MARIA 23, chatty blonde, fun to be around, likes to try new things seeks spontaneous male for no strings fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337825

LISA 41, 5ft, black hair, brown eyes, curvy, divorced mum, attractive, GSOH, seeks genuine, grubby builder with rough hands and big heart to cherish. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337609

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336719

RETIRED female, new to area, likes art, music, concerts, theatre, seeks similar professional/retired male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337922

JAN 5ft 2ins, blonde hair, brown eyes, slim, 50's, nurse, likes pubs, nights in, wine, cooking, animals, seeks likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335065

MANDY 18, very pretty inexperienced young female, seeks seductive older male to tutor and spoil her. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335569

THERE'S more to life than work! Sandra, 46, bubbly professional looking to let her hair down with broadminded male. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337815

LARGER lady 61, likes tv, cinema, boot sales, fairs, reading, WLTW male for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336833

FEMALE likes holidays, ballet, reading, animals, seeks N/S male, under 70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335437

MEN
seeking women

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : **CHAT883** To : **65125 (T&C's below)**

AMERICAN male, GSOH, caring, loving, loyal, looking for serious relationship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339579

NIGE 36, tall, slim, blond hair, blue eyes, seeks fun, adventurous female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339333

MIKE easygoing, fun, seeks special female, 30-45 with no hang-ups for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339297

ATTRACTIVE male, 44, 5ft 10ins, average build, easygoing, likes nights in/out, seeks female for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339145

STEVE 47, loyal, tactile, caring, honest, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339123

ABBI tall, medium build, kind, gentle, considerate, black gent, 40, seeks large white female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339495

BLACK male, 47, bubbly, seeks curvy, buxom, pear shaped, voluptuous white female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339453

21YR old male, tall, dark handsome, seeks female, 18-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339421

ATTRACTIVE professional blond male, toned, sporty, seeks Oriental/Asian attractive female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339355

MALE 52, attractive, fun, energetic, 6ft, slim, many interests including cinema, walks, seeks fun lady, 40-60 for relationship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339197

40YR old male, likes walks, music, GSOH, seeks female, 30-40 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380544

44YR old male, tall, slim, attractive, N/S, GSOH, outdoor type, seeks petite, N/S lady, 43-50 with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380696

BILL 46, divorced, professional, seeks young female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380658

BRIAN 60, 5ft 8ins, 14st, clean shaven, seeks busty female, 60 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380648

TONY 49, average build, Saints fan, seeks female, 30-52 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339419

TREVOR 57, easygoing, like's nights out, clubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339569

67YR old male, likes sport, bingo, seeks interesting female for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339259

JOHN self employed gardener, medium build, N/S, seeks female, 35-50 for romance, love and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339511

5FT 8ins male, medium build, mid 40's, with kids, seeks career woman, 35-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337553

TALL man, mid 50's, refuses to take himself too seriously, GSOH, likes light hearted discussion, seeks friendship with woman 42 or younger. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337169

SEAN 39, 5ft 10ins, brown eyes, GSOH, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339535

CRAIG 24, Christian, likes theatre, meals out, shopping, socialising, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380574

51YR old chap, 6ft, not bald, looks bit like Richard Branson without the money, seeks gorgeous lovely. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 336529

NORMAN 59, easygoing, fit, 6ft, likes golf, boating, walks, cinema, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338055

PROFESSIONAL honest male, 38, slim, 5ft 11ins, seeks female for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338381

MALE easygoing, 47, 5ft 6ins, N/S, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, likes walks, music, travel, seeks similar female, 35-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338342

GARY 42, 6ft 1ins, slim, good looking, athletic, own business, likes sports, walks, meals out, seeks slim, athletic lady, 25-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338313

40YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, short hair, hazel eyes, seeks slim-medium female, 30-43 for friendship, maybe more. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338087

BRIAN young looking, easygoing, 49, divorced dad, likes music, meals out, travel, seeks easygoing female, 40-58 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337973

INVITATION to dine, trip to coast, cosy night in, you choose 5ft, brown hair, 50's male, looking for someone special to spend quality time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337391

NICK 50's, 5ft 10ins, slim, fair

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LEISURE 18-20

STYLE 22

WEATHER 24

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CINEMA/TELEVISION 26

MUSIC/GETAWAYS 28



DAY & NIGHT

Discover Kent history

DISCOVER eight elements of Kent on King's English Magical History Tours.

The Canterbury company is offering guided tours on themes like the White Cliffs of Dover, Jane Austen's inspiration, the garden at Sissinghurst and the world of Charles Dickens.

Tours cost £35. For details go to www.kingsenglishretail.co.uk/tours or call 01227 840444.

Step out for charity

WALKERS can raise money for charity on the North Downs Walk Challenge on September 12.

The 17-mile route leads from the Wye Downs to Capel-le-Ferne in aid of the Caldecott Foundation which cares for vulnerable people. Entry is £15. Call 01303 815634 or go to www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk/northdownswalk.

Invitation to writers

ASPIRING writers are invited to take part in the Friends of the Folkestone Book Festival short story competition.

Entries must be up to 1,000 words and it must be a fictional, historical story connected to the Roman or Anglo Saxon settlements in Kent.

Email entries to shortstory@friendsof-folkestonebookfest.co.uk or hand them in at Waterstone's in Sandgate Road by October 1.

Theatre workshops

CHILDREN can tread the boards or work behind the scenes at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate this summer.

The school holiday theatre workshop will run from Monday, August 16 to Thursday, August 19 and is open to ages four to 16. Admission is £60 per child.

Call Trudi on 01843 855000 or go to www.granvilletheatre.com for details.

Farming world guests

FARMING World is expecting some special visitors this week.

Today visitors can meet creepy crawlies and on Thursday children can bounce around during Inflatables Day. Mrs Back 2 Front will appear on Friday, before Magic Week starts on Monday.

To find out more call 01227 751144 or visit www.farming-world.com.

Twice the music talent

LOCAL guitar and vocal duo, Veronica Cowper and Jamie Moore, will be performing in Broadstairs next Wednesday.

South African vocalist Cowper and guitarist Moore, who hails from Canada, can be seen at the Lord Nelson at 3pm. Admission is free. To find out more visit www.jamie-moore.com.

Film fun for families

ENJOY great films in the open air when Freedayz returns to the Lower Leas Amphitheatre in Folkestone.

Family classics will be screened free this Sunday and on Sunday, August 22, after being decided by public vote. To find out more and see how young people can get involved in the project, visit www.freedayz.co.uk.

Celebrate folk in festival week

BROADSTAIRS FOLK WEEK

Friday, August 6, to Friday, August 13

Various venues, Broadstairs



BROADSTAIRS explodes with colour and music again this week when the annual Folk Week festival returns.

Now in its 45th year, the hugely popular festival will play host to more than 600 musicians, singers and dancers when they flock to Thanet to be part of the fun.

From big name stars like Martin Simpson, Show of Hands and Adrian Edmondson with his Bad Shepherds – whose concert has already sold out – to the up-and-coming acts, Folk Week is packed with more than 500 events.

Whatever their age, festival-goers are sure to find something to entertain and enthral them during the week. There has been a particular focus on provision for children and young people this year, which means that every member of the family can discover the joy of folk.

Kim Headley, the festival's artistic director, said: "There's good news for budding young performers, as we have taken a good look at our children's programme and given it a few tweaks."

"Shooting Roots will run workshops for youngsters aged eight to 12 and 13 to 17 and there will be a chance to form a junior Morris side. Mick Scott's workshops for seven to nine-year-olds will be a sort of Recycled Marching Band meets the X-Factor, and popular favourites Toddler's Singalong, Story Time for the over-threes and English country dancing will all be back."

For many years the festival has provided the daily Hobby Horse Club for children, which keeps young festival-goers entertained in the mornings with appearances by Clarence the Dragon and the Hooden Horses. But there is even more on offer for youngsters this year and they will even have the chance to learn an instrument, rehearse with a band and perform live on stage at the end of the week.

This year the festival will be opened by Charlie Dore and the Hula Valley Orchestra, whose hit single Pilot of the Airwaves will be known to audiences.

Other highlights of the week include performances by the Demon Barber Road Show, the Shee, Mawkin:Causley, Chris While and Julie Matthews, Pama International and many, many more. The programme even features a silent folk electronica disco and begins, as ever, with a torchlight procession on Saturday.

Also performing is American singer-songwriter Rachel Harrigan, who has just embarked on an extensive UK tour. She will perform with Rod Clements, founding member of Lindisfarne and a renowned guitar and dobro player. They will be performing songs from Harrigan's latest album, along with her first two releases, The Bootlegger's Daughter and City of Refuge. Harrigan and Clements can be seen at the concert marquee in Pierremont Park at 2.30pm on Tuesday.



FESTIVAL LINE-UP:

Clockwise from above; Charlie Dore and the Hula Valley Orchestra; Chris While and Julie Matthews; The Shee and Rachel Harrington are among the 600 artists taking part in this year's Broadstairs Folk Week



There are more than 70 workshops taking place across the week, giving festival-goers of all ages the chance to try out such diverse skills as Appalachian clogging, banjo-picking and Bollywood dance.

Music will be performed everywhere from the big concert marquee to pubs throughout

the town and there will also be a craft fair, with the chance to make a holiday of it at the festival campsite.

For full event listings and booking information visit the website at www.broadstairsfolk-week.org.uk or call the box office on 01843 604080.



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ALL SHOOK UP

Wednesday, August 11, to Saturday, August 14
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



DUST off those blue suede shoes and get ready to rock 'n' roll with the musical, All Shook Up.

Local drama company Lights Up Production has teamed up with Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society to stage the show. Inspired by the music of Elvis Presley, the show is a trip down memory lane for fans of 50s and 60s music.

Talented young performers will be bringing the swinging spirit to the stage in a show that features the music of Elvis, although it is not about the star.

"I loved last year's show,

Footloose, but this is going to be bigger and better," said Max Reynolds, the show's director.

"I have a superb cast of vibrant young players and a crack technical team. This may very well be the South East's best show this year. Working with the FHODS team at the Tower Theatre is a dream."

Tickets cost £12/£10, with a special price of £8 for the opening night. To find out more and to book tickets call the box office on 01303 223925 or visit the website at www.towertheatre-folkestone.co.uk.



QUEX PARK MAIZE MAZE

Running until early September, Quex Park, Birchington

GET lost in nature at Quex Park with the attraction's Africa-themed Maize Maze.

Visitors are invited to accept the challenge of finding their way through the intriguing maze, which this year is designed in the shape of an ostrich and its chick.

Admission to the maze costs £1.50 per person and the price includes a quiz and a puzzle sheet to guide intrepid explorers through the maze.

With its African theme, the quiz is educational and helps visitors to discover more about the fascinating continent.

With its relaxing expanses of trees and parkland, Quex Park is a beautiful 250-acre site set within a larger 1,800-acre estate. Planted by John Powell-Powell in the 19th century, the many trees provide a haven for more than 50 bird species.

The park also includes Quex House, dating from 1805 and the 1819 Waterloo Bell Tower, with its very rare secular peal of 12 bells.

The Maize Maze is open from 10am to 6pm, seven days a week. To find out more about attractions and events at Quex Park visit www.quexpark.co.uk.

SUMMER AT HOLE PARK GARDENS

Ongoing, Hole Park Gardens, Rolvenden

ESCAPE to paradise at Hole Park Gardens where the exotic border is lighting up the days.

With their vibrant colours and striking shapes, the plants in the border are at their best in summer and early autumn. Plants include cannas, daturas or angel's trumpets and solanum laciniatum, otherwise known as the kangaroo apple.

Keen to ring the changes each year, head gardener Quentin Stark adds exciting new plants to give even regular visitors a nice surprise. This year, the border features the strong pink flowers of salvia involucrata 'Bethellii', contrasted with the dark black and blue of salvia guarantica. With the hairy leaves and white flowers of the sparmannia Africana, or house lime, the rare yrachycarpus princeps palm tree and the red Abyssinian banana tree, the border is an unmissable highlight of any visit.

Hole Park Gardens are open from 2pm to 6pm, every Wednesday and Thursday until October 31. Tickets cost £5 for adults and 50p for children. For details call 01580 241344 or visit the website at www.holepark.com.



X

Friday, August 13, to Sunday, August 22
Quex Park, Birchington



VENTURE out if you dare and find out if the curse of 'X' will strike again next week.

Every member of the audience will be drawn into the grisly story when Fireraisers presents a ghostly murder mystery production in the beautiful grounds of Quex House.

Each spectator is a detective, suspect, witness and potential victim when an ancient curse is unleashed.

A dysfunctional, aristocratic family has been living under a deadly tradition for years and when a group of people stumble across a crime scene, they become unavoidably caught up in the horror. Amateur sleuths in the audience must try to identify the villain.

With a reputation for producing unique and memorable work, Fireraisers have performed in such diverse locations as Selfridges' shop window on Oxford Street in London and an oilrig off Brighton Beach, where their production of The Tempest attracted a record audience of 35,000 people.

To book tickets call the box office on 01227 787787 or go online at www.theatreroyal-margate.com.



FAMILY FUN DAY

Wednesday, August 4, Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch

GET involved in the celebrations as Canterbury Oast Trust marks its 25th anniversary today.

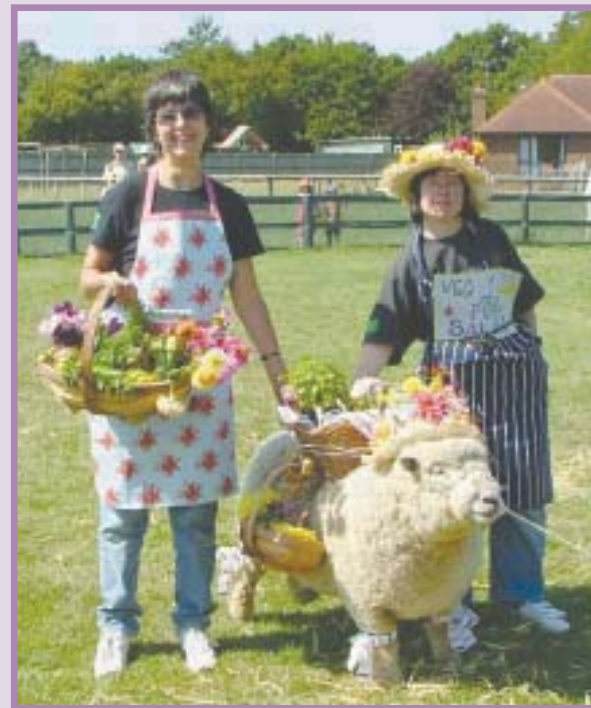
Visitors are invited to join in the revelry at the attraction's Fun Day which is packed with exciting family activities. Some of the highlights include pig washing, pig racing, the Mini Show and seeing who can boast the best costume in the Animal Fancy Dress Competition.

Anyone who thinks they have good balance and co-ordination can try their hand at circus skills or hang on as long as they can on the ferocious rodeo bull.

A mini funfair offers a variety of rides and visitors can also see Tanya Larrigan's famed Mini Marvels, the Shetland pony display team which has performed for Her Majesty the Queen.

There will also be an exhibition showcasing the work of the Canterbury Oast Trust, which provides opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

The Rare Breeds Centre is open from 10.30am to 5.30pm daily and on the Fun Day, there will be a special entrance price of £5 per person and free admission for under-threes. For details call 01233 861493 or visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk.



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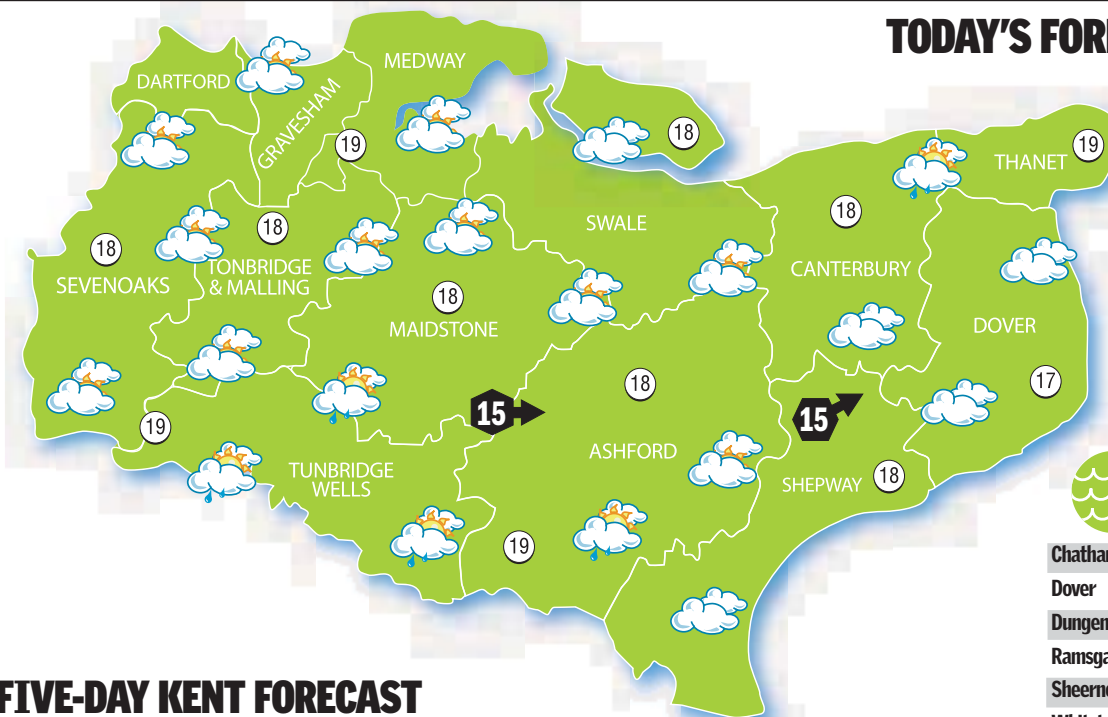
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AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	21°C	Madrid	32°C
Athens	35°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	29°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	29°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	20°C	Tokyo	32°C
Gibraltar	26°C	Vancouver	18°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	27°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	14°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	10:55am 5.2m	Sunday	12:00pm 5.6m
Dover	Saturday	9:21am 5.7m	Sunday	10:20am 6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:21am 6.3m	Sunday	10:21am 6.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	9:51am 4.3m	Sunday	10:50am 4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	10:43am 5.0m	Sunday	11:49am 5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	10:43am 4.7m	Sunday	11:52am 5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon															
Ashford	21°C	20°C	21°C	20°C	22°C	Dover	20°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	19°C	Gravesend	23°C	21°C	22°C	21°C	22°C	Sevenoaks	21°C	18°C
Canterbury	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Faversham	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Maidstone	22°C	20°C	21°C	20°C	22°C	Sittingbourne	21°C	19°C
Chatham	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Folkestone	20°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	19°C	Ramsgate	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Tonbridge	22°C	19°C
Dartford	23°C	21°C	22°C	21°C	22°C	Gillingham	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Tun Wells	22°C	19°C



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tion and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address and daytime telephone number to Café Du Village Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. The closing date is August 9, 2010.



Question: What is the Capital of France?

- a) Rome
- b) Paris
- c) Madrid

* One child eats for free (main + drink + ice cream from the Kid's menu) per adult dining from the A La Carte menu. For more information.

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The A-Team are back with a plan that doesn't quite come together

■ BY DAMON SMITH

IT HAS been more than 25 years since George Peppard chewed on a cigar and uttered the immortal line "I love it when a plan comes together!"

Joe Carnahan's big screen revamp of The A-Team doesn't quite come together, lacking the low-rent charm of the original.

Indeed, nothing is impossible in this all-guns-blazing adventure for Colonel John 'Hannibal' Smith (Liam Neeson), Lieutenant Templeton 'Face' Peck (Bradley Cooper), Captain 'Howlin' Mad' Murdoch (Sharlto Copley) and Sergeant Bosco 'B.A.' Baracus (Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson).

Framed for the murder of their good friend, General Morrison (Gerald McRaney), the enterprising soldiers break out of military prison and hijack a plane, which is subsequently shot down by military gunships.

The quick-thinking quartet leap into an armoured tank – handily parked in the hold – just before the plane explodes, then parachute to terra firma at breakneck speed, shooting down the gunships using the tank's weapons systems.

Jessica Biel's plucky heroine, newly-demoted army lieutenant Charissa Sosa, isn't kidding when she observes: "They are the best... and they specialise in the ridiculous."

She gives chase along with tenacious CIA agent Lynch (Patrick Wilson) and his underlings.

The A-Team is preposterous, asking us to believe that each member of the squad possesses split-second timing to rescue their buddies from almost certain death.

Villains help the cause by delaying executions until the last second, as if they are expecting their plans to be thwarted.

Sure enough they are, reaching a crescendo with an overblown final showdown at the docks, on a ship laden with cargo containers.



TOP TEAM: Bradley Cooper as 'Face' Peck, Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson as BA Baracus, Sharlto Copley as 'Howlin Mad' Murdoch, and Liam Neeson as Hannibal Smith

Neeson is miscast in a role that demands far more charisma as the master tactician who vows: "I'd rather face a firing squad than betray you guys."

Thankfully, Cooper is a perfect fit for an incorrigible ladies' man, merrily flaunting his washboard abs to pique the interest of wives and girlfriends in the audience.

Copley is often unintelligible as "a functioning lunatic", who paints his face blue and pretends to be Braveheart, riding a hobbyhorse into battle against the English.

He bickers incessantly with Jackson's hard

man, who has the words PITY and FOOL tattooed across his knuckles.

Biel is surplus to requirements but Wilson has a ball as a dashing yet unconventional spook, who treats his perilous mission like a fun day out.

It's no surprise when Charissa berates Lynch for riding roughshod over her agents and he cheekily retorts: "CIA's got rules. They're just cooler than yours."

Carnahan augments most scenes with flashy special effects and a booming orchestral score from Alan Silvestri that seems to have

only one volume setting: deafening.

At least the theme tune is still recognisable beneath all of the clatter.

For die-hard fans, Carnahan affectionately pays tribute to the TV version with cameos from Dirk Benedict and Dwight Schultz, aka the original Face and Murdoch, after the end credits.

THE A-TEAM 
Certificate 12A



OLD MASTERS: Sandi Toksvig and Eric Knowles present Antiques Master



YOUR TV REVIEW ANTIQUES MASTER: BBC2, 8.30pm, Tuesday

LAST Tuesday, thoroughly deflated by my lack of ability to answer any of the questions on University Challenge, I found I had drifted into watching the next programme on BBC 2's schedule, Antiques Master.

The programme is presented by Sandi Toksvig and Antiques Roadshow regular Eric Knowles. It is a sort of Master Chef for antiques aimed at finding the country's top amateur expert in old stuff.

The start of the programme didn't look promising. The four contestants on show weren't exactly a bunch of lookers. In fact, they were as gnarled and worn-out as the furniture they had been asked to comment on.

The programme itself can't have cost an arm or a Chippendale leg to make either. The set dressing did a remarkable job of making a genuine stately home look cheap and the

■ BY ED HILL

sound appeared to have been recorded through an old baked bean tin and a length of string.

However, having laughed ungenerously at these losers and their boring interest in the bits of bone china and fascination with French glassware, I found myself strangely drawn into the programme.

It wasn't the objects on display – quite frankly, I couldn't care less about the commode masquerading as a writing desk or the Worcester cup with its hand-painted Chinese design that was a lot older than everyone imagined.


No, it was the people. At first they looked like the sort of hard-faced cads who might prey on your granny, offering her 50p for the Faberge ash-

tray she keeps her cotton buds in.

But as the programme went on, they became the most unassuming quiz hopefuls ever. I felt sorry for the psychologist from London who failed to get any points in the mystery object round. She looked so upset when she was booted out, not because she was desperate to win but because of the sheer embarrassment of it all.

Even the chap in the tweed jacket and bow tie, who I took an instant dislike to, turned out to be a bit of a bumbler, telling Sandy he was "utterly hopeless" when he got the value of a dining table wrong.

The contestants were all refreshingly nervous, unlike most of the public on the box these days who are primed to be as bubbly as possible. It is like watching a genuine Victorian parlour game on your flatscreen TV.



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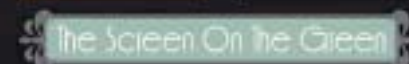
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Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.



yourmusic

It's getting Heavy at Port Lympne



LEGENDS: Sepultura will be one of the headline acts at this year's Hevy Festival

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE hardcore Hevy Festival takes over Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in two days' time.

The rock-fuelled three-day event will host some of the world's loudest, angriest and darkest bands across four stages.

Headliners include legendary Brazilian metallers Sepultura and Birmingham's hardest rockers Napalm Death.

The main stage boasts the likes of Gallows, F*cked Up and Rolo Tomassi (Saturday) and Glassjaw, The King Blues and Madina Lake (Sunday).

Meanwhile, the Rock Sound Stage will play host to Dananananaykroyd, Pulled Apart by Horses and March of the Raptors on Saturday and Sepultura, Napalm Death and The Black Dahlia Murder the following day.

Kentish talent comes by way of Pay No Respect, Breaking the Day, Alaska, Tyrannosaurus Alan, Lost in Colour and Bareface, among others.

Hevy bosses have also laid on non-music related entertainment for their paying punters, with a series of Gladiators-inspired fun fair rides.

Look out for Chaos, Superstar and Storm.

Hevy co-founders James Dutton and Claire Baker said the festival will be one to remember.

In a joint statement they said: "With a brand new venue and some awesome plans, this year's festival is what we've always wanted to bring to Kent – it's going to be huge!

"There's some fantastic little festivals down here that offer a great family-friendly product. But we've always felt there's a need in this corner of the UK for something a little heavier, and that's what we hope to be – Kent's alternative music festival.

"We're really going for it too – with huge bands from all corners of rock, punk, hardcore and metal, insane extreme sports displays

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MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Happy Daze - 14/8 Canterbury Conservative Club
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 15/8 King Edward 7th Pub in Dover
- 3 Stereohype - 20/8 Sellindge Music Festival
- 4 Flipswitch - 21/8 Maidens Head Canterbury
- 5 Fred Clark - 01/0 Hazlett Theatre Maidstone

and some hand-picked, state-of-the-art thrill rides – everything on site is totally focused at the alternative market.

"And at just £69 for a weekend camping ticket, it's seriously good value too.

"Brace yourself, this is going to be epic."

Hevy takes place at Port Lympne from Friday, August 6 to Sunday 8.

For more information visit www.festival.hevy.co.uk.



A FRENCH VIEW: Quaint villages, history and stunning architecture are just some of the attractions when you visit Ardennes in France

yourgetaways

Visiting beautiful Ardennes is just a train ride away...

■ BY KATE WHITING

THE Ardennes, an area spanning the border between Brussels and France, has all the joys of the Gallic country's most popular attributes – quaint villages, stunning architecture, a rich history – without the crowds, and sadly also without its own wine.

In times of unreliable air travel, another big attraction is the area is well served by the high speed TGV train, and can be reached within a couple of hours from Paris.

It took us a morning to get from London to Charleville-Mezieres – the twinned cities which serve as the Ardennes' central hub – by Eurostar and TGV.

Best known as the birthplace of the poet Arthur Rimbaud, the city is incredibly proud of its heritage.

Rimbaud, sadly, was less proud of his birthplace and spent most of his youth trying to escape, eventually living in places as far flung as Ethiopia.

Among Charleville's other attractions is the Place Ducale, a Louis XIII square, built, like the city itself, by the young Italian prince Charles de Gonzague to rival Paris's Place des Vosges.

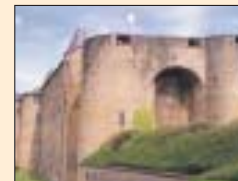
The Great Puppeteer's Clock on the facade of the Puppetry Institute is also worth a visit. Every hour the mechanical Great Puppeteer treats his spectators to a show, and every couple of years the city hosts the world's biggest puppetry festival.

After a day's sightseeing I was looking forward to the highlight of the trip: two nights staying in a castle.

Just half an hour from Charleville is the town of Sedan, which is over-

FACT FILE: ARDENNES

Population	65 million
Currency	Euro
Language	French
Time difference	+ one hour (GMT)
Religion	Roman Catholic



Kate Whiting was a guest of Ardennes Tourism, which lists short breaks on its website at www.ardennes.com/uk. Two-night hotel short breaks from around 130 euros per person include breakfast, dinner and a welcome drink.

Double rooms at Hotel Le Chateau Fort (www.hotel-fp-sedan.com) start around £130. Breakfast is extra.

For travel by Eurostar to Charleville-Mezieres, via Lille or Paris, Rail Europe standard class returns start at £92 per person.

Rail Europe reservations: 0844 848 4070 and www.raileurope.co.uk. Car hire in Charleville-Mezieres costs from £291 for three days for a Renault Twingo, supplied by Hertz. Reservations: www.hertz.co.uk.

looked by the largest fortified castle in Europe, Chateau de Sedan.

The only small disappointment is that the owners haven't capitalised on its history. Rooms are done up simply, without four-poster beds or period furniture.

Fortunately the restaurant makes up for this oversight. With views over the courtyard and the fort's many turrets, a roaring log fire, and sumptuous paintings and red curtains. And the food is exquisite.

For lunch, we ventured out of the hotel and tried the effortlessly rustic Brasserie Artisanale du Chateau Fort, just opposite the entrance to the Historium.

Next stop was the peaceful Abbey Church and the Musee du Feutre (felt museum) in the town of Mouzon.

After another night at the Hotel Le Chateau, we headed for the hills, literally.

Near Olizy Primat, in the south of the Ardennes, is the Parc Argonne

Decouverte, which allows visitors to see nocturnal animals by day.

In a fenced compound along a discovery trail in the woods, lay a wolf, while in the park's darkened indoor mini zoo, UV lights reveal the scurrying of teeny harvest mice. Not a trip for the faint-hearted!

A warm goat's cheese salad and a glass of red wine in the "tree tops restaurant" calmed my nerves before our next stop, a museum of the Ardennes' metal-working history at the Domaine de Vendresse.

Our bed for the night was in the sweet village of Jandun at Jocelyne Bournonville's Chambre d'Hotes (www.milaville.com).

More than a B&B, these French institutions offer a home-cooked meal with fellow travellers.

A scenic drive along the Meuse valley back to Charleville, with stops at the star-shaped fortifications of Rocroi and the town of Montherme, provided a beautiful end to our trip.

MOTORS NEWS



Third generation puts its Focus on endurance

FORD has committed to making the third generation Focus as tough as it is elegant – not that the current car is unreliable.

The UK market leader says pre-production versions – due next spring – have been thrashed over frozen lakes, hammered across deserts, and driven overloaded up high Alpine passes to test endurance.

The Focus remains a UK best-seller but – a sign of the times – has lost a once impregnable number one slot to its smaller stablemate, the Fiesta.



Join the Ibiza lifestyle club with Seat's new ST

CARMAKERS' efforts to create a smart supermini lifestyle estate have been patchy, but Seat has hit the spot with the new Ibiza ST launched this month, priced from £12,070.

It joins the sporty Ibiza SC and practical Ibiza five-door to offer more carrying capacity – the 430 litres of 'seats-up' boot space marks a rise of 138 litres against the five-door – without compromising the Spanish brand's racy image. It also comes with sporty turbocharged petrol engines as well as frugal turbodiesels.



Fiat plays its BlackJack 500 hand for the gents

ADDITIONAL female buyers have been attracted to the Fiat 500 cult car by the Pink special edition.

The Italian marque has now balanced this with one for the boys – the BlackJack (from £12,165) – a timely reminder that guys can be seen to drive the retro-styled baby car.

But they must be quick as just 200 of the matt black specials will be sold, based on the existing 1.2 and 1.4 Sport and featuring metallic exterior highlights plus matt black alloys and red brake callipers.



REAL DEAL: Despite a gimmicky interior the new BMW 5-Series is slightly larger than its predecessor and has a longer wheelbase allowing both driver and passengers extra legroom

Jumbo's imprint fails to dent this classy 5-Series

ROAD TEST BMW 5-SERIES

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY	OUT OF FIVE
Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

BMW's all-new 5-Series has a bonnet apparently sculpted by the weight of an elephant's backside.

But the latest 'Five' (from £31,360) is still classier and sleeker than its impressive predecessor and the fit and finish and materials quality is peerless.

It's gimmicky inside though: I found the sounds/sat nav iDrive interface irritating and the 'ergonomic' auto gearbox selector is also ugly and fussy to use – until you get used to it.

Once under way though, my mutterings subsided; this new BMW is a true class act and there's even a piece of new technology that I do like – the 'head-up' display for the speed.

Despite being slightly larger than before, the car feels nimble and bowls along beautifully with the use of aluminium for some bodywork, enhancing the natural balance of BMW's classic rear-wheel drive layout.

This adds to a mix of sure-footed handling and out-and-out cruising comfort that counter-attacks its arch-rival, the Jaguar XF.

The £1,495 extra for the 5-Series' eight-speed auto 'box also looks like money well spent; not only are the changes silky smooth whether in

auto or manual mode but, in the case of our £37,175 530d SE diesel test car, it manages to lower CO2 emissions (160g/km) enough to limbo beneath the upper limit on road tax bracket G thereby incurring a flat £155/year.

The six-speed manual's 166g/km though means a £250 hit in year one plus £180 thereafter and there will be benefit in kind consequences too.

On paper, the auto is marginally better on fuel as well – the official combined mpg is 45.6 against 44.8 for the manual – and yet both cars can leap smoothly to 62mph in just 6.3 seconds.

The lightweight 245bhp in-line six-cylinder diesel is a delight, delivering power freely and smoothly with a barely audible burble worthy of a V8 petrol unit.

The BMW also has a clear edge over the rival Jag in cabin space, where the new model's longer wheelbase allows even more legroom than before and greater passenger comfort, yet the boot appears more cavernous.

I was also impressed by the amount of kit that comes as standard – not a comment made often on BMWs in the past, especially so soon after launch.



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BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7901079, power steering, abs, electric front windows, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear bags, blue, 25900 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, 7978079, power steering, central locking, abs, radio cassette, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, blue, 14000 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 600LX With Side Loading Door, km57unc, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, electric windows, cd player, radio, side load door, white, 33000 miles, £4495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDi Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaa, cd player, power steering, grp lined, hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra), white, 15 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fm042zv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, refrigerated display, heated display, hand wash facilities, white, 0 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, side load door, cd player, lectric standby available if required, over fifty fridge vans in stock, www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 27000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, id59ees, satellite navigation, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, air bag, bluetooth, cd player, brand new, immediate delivery, grp lined, gah equipment, electric standby available if required, over fifty fridge vans in stock, www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 1 miles, £11595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 625 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, mv58zhn, dual passenger seat, side load door, cd player, abs, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, grp lined, hubbard fridge, electric stanby, over fifty fridge vans in stock, www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 12000 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 17398 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi VTR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel tremote audio controls, gold metallic, 4000 miles, £10495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

MATERIA, 16v 5dr, fe09tss, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, cd player, head restraints, cloth upholstery, sun visors with mirrors, remote fuel flap release, body colour tailgate handle, internal chrome door handles, body colour door handles, height adjustable driver's seat, glovebox, aerial, black window surrounds, maroon, 1900 miles, £9995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

SIRION, SE 5dr, yt08nn, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, parking sensor, adjustable steering column, rear headrests, automatic electric windows, radio, child locks, cloth upholstery, isofix, air conditioning, 15" alloys, laminated windscreen, tachometer, digital clock, air recirculation system, body colour front sports bumper, auxiliary socket for external device, full impact safety system, passenger grip handles, storage trays, air blending and ventilation system, red rear indicator lenses, blue, 13000 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

FIAT

GRANDE PUNTO, 2006, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, astral blue, 34399 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 19000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 20426 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 28000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 27670 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2006, red, 40000 miles, £4995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, red, 29000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, metallic new wave blue, 8900 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 2006 56 Reg, 112,000 miles, Metallic grey. Heated door mirrors, Folding rear seats, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Cruise control, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Sports seats, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Passenger airbag, Reverse parking aid, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Anti theft system, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Child locks, Leather seat trim, Service indicator, Park distance control, Locking wheel nuts, Trip computer, Navigation system, Multi function steering wheel, Space saver spare wheel, Electric mirrors, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Front armrest, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, CD, Central locking, Climate Control, Colour coding - Body, Foglights, Full Service History. Insurance Group:12, Fully integrated Navigation system, Mobile phone Bluetooth connection. Business Pack. 6 Speed gearbox,**£6,995**

SAAB 9-3 1.9TiD Linear, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 2006 06 Reg, 70,763 miles, Metallic BLUE, MOT-04-2011, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Folding rear seats, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alloy wheels, Multi function steering wheel, Full Service History, Immobiliser, Cloth upholstery, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Cloth seat trim, Isofix child seat anchor points, Front head restraints, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Service indicator, Space saver spare wheel, Alarm, Front armrest, Rear armrest, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Anti theft system, Child locks. Insurance Group:12, Bluetooth phone connection**£6,295**

SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 2005 05 Reg, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Multi function steering wheel, Audio remote control, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Reverse parking aid, Remote central locking, Height adjustable drivers seat, Drivers airbag, Service indicator, Cloth upholstery, Trip computer, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Front armrest, Part Service History, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Central locking, Climate Control, Computer, Park distance control, Power assisted steering, Remote locking. Insurance Group:12,**£6,195**

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GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 10000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 15433 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning bluetooth car kit cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 20422 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 20422 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 5, 1x07kfp, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electric door mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering remote central locking trip computer, tango red, 22000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering remote central locking trip computer, tango red, 20000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, eu02fyv, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cassette sunroof trip computer 3 owners service history, aquafrost green, 35000 miles, £2783, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ea02vpz, insurance group adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cd trip computer £2483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, kd07dtv, insurance group steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer, amethyst, 2000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, ce566rk, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body 1 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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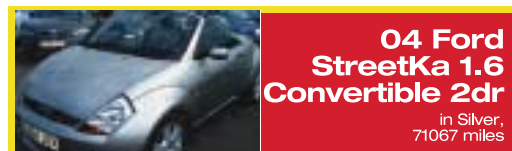
05 Ford Focus C-Max 1.6 MPV 5dr
in Panther Black, 42561 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5999	£599.90	£130.82	£30.00	£280.79
Total Amount Payable £7199.23* APR 9.9% Typical				



06 Ford Mondeo 2.0 Diesel Hatchback 5dr
in Metallic Blue, 71034 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5999	£599.90	£130.82	£31.00	£280.79
Total Amount Payable £7199.23* APR 9.9%				



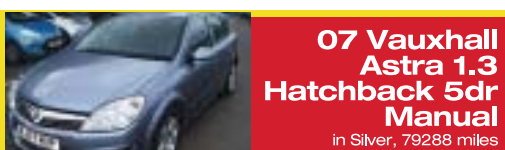
04 Ford StreetKa 1.6 Convertible 2dr
in Silver, 71067 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£3899	£389.90	£84.13	£54.00	£234.31
Total Amount Payable £4748.32* APR 9.9%				



07 Kia Sedona 2.9 Diesel MPV 5dr
in Silver, 31095 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£8699	£869.90	£190.85	£43.00	£340.64
Total Amount Payable £10350.49* APR 9.9%				



07 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Hatchback 5dr Manual
in Silver, 79288 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5499	£549.90	£119.70	£27.00	£269.90
Total Amount Payable £6615.70* APR 9.9%				



07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Hatchback 5dr
in White, 22859 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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PROPERTY NEWS

Small price rise shows lack of market stability

THE growing uncertainty surrounding the stability of the UK residential housing market has been confirmed in the tentative rise in house prices recorded by Communities and Local Government.

Figures indicate that the average price of a UK home increased by 0.7 per cent between May and April, just 11 per cent higher than in May 2009, Government statistics show.

The adjusted average house price in the UK for May stood at £209,505, reflecting just 1.7 per cent growth for the preceding three months.

This month-on-month increase stands in contrast to the small increase recorded in the Nationwide Building Society figures and the declines reported by Halifax and the Land Registry for the same month.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors chief economist Simon Rubinsohn suggested that "low transaction volumes" are adding to "volatility of the individual series".

Villagers 'being forced out by cost of homes'

YOUNG people in rural areas are finding it increasingly difficult to get on to the property ladder, according to PricedOut.org.uk.

The lobby group's press officer Katy John claims that affordability in the countryside is an increasing problem, with the average property now costing 10 times the average salary.

It is therefore time that the government recognises what effect the buy-to-let boom and the demand for second houses has had, she added.

In the latest research from the National Housing Federation, it was revealed that 65 per cent of people living in the countryside feel that first-time buyers are being forced out of their local villages by high house prices.

"The Government needs to establish and meet clear targets for building more homes in rural areas, particularly suitable homes for young families trying to get on the housing ladder."



'Right to Build' proposal to bypass planning laws

■ BY NICK AMES

VILLAGES will be able to build new homes without getting planning permission from their local authority if the Government's 'Right to Build' proposals come into effect.

The plan is meant to deliver the dual benefits of increasing the amount of affordable homes in rural areas and giving more power to local communities, as mapped out in Prime Minister David Cameron's Big Society proposals.

It is an attempt to move power in planning away from local authorities and enable villagers to have far more of a say in what is going to be constructed.

Mandate

Housing minister Grant Shapps has said the idea is that small developments of fewer than 20 homes can be built without planning permission.

Voting on proposals would be carried out during local elections and the Government says a large mandate in favour – maybe up to 80 per cent – would be necessary for the development plans to go ahead.

Mr Shapps said: "Loads of people in village communities are saying 'Our school's closing, our post offices are under threat, we're losing our community facilities'."

"Our problem is that the young people grow up and find they can't afford to live in this village any more."

"We believe that people have a right to stay in their community, and if people want to build that community to make it a bit bigger and expand it a bit, within reason, they should have the powers to do that."

But the Campaign to Protect Rural England



VILLAGE HOMES: Small developments might not need planning permission under the Right to Build scheme

(CPRE) said that the proposal needs a little more thought.

"A more democratic approach to house building is welcome, as local people should always be given a say in development," said the CPRE's head of planning Fiona Howie.

"We are pleased that the Government is considering how to protect and enhance rural village life, and delivering affordable housing in rural areas will be a critical part of this."

"However, bypassing the planning process is not the way to deliver it, and any proposals should include proper planning scrutiny."

"The level and location of development should be informed by a proper assessment of

local housing need and an understanding of whether the local environment can accommodate more development."

"This capacity should be assessed through democratic local plans, and not a simple ballot."

"A central part of the Government's wider planning reform proposals is to give local communities a pivotal role in shaping local plans. "The Government should focus its efforts on getting these broader reforms right, so that local communities are truly involved in planning for their area as a whole."

"This, rather than a new Right to Build, should ensure local people are able to shape future development in their areas."

Rise in sales 'unlikely to be sustained'

NEW figures from HM Revenue & Customs show the number of homes sold in the UK rising to 86,000 in June.

Completed transactions on properties worth over £40,000 increased by an annual 15 per cent having leapt 21 per cent in May.

The summer bounce also took volumes for the first six months of the year up 21 per cent on the comparable period of 2009.

However, housing market activity remains weak and analysts predict a flat second half of the year at best in terms of prices and sales.

An influx of new instructions for sale follow-

ing the abolition of Home Information Packs is putting pressure on prices while new buyer enquiries remain restricted by a lack of mortgage finance.

Halifax reported a 0.6 per cent fall in the average value of a home in June, with the annual rate of gain easing back to 6.3 per cent, and according to Rightmove, home owners coming onto the market are dropping asking prices, for the first time this year.

The property portal has detected a 0.6 per cent decline in the average new vendor's ambitions in July, amounting to £1,435 in cash.





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New Romney Office

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Lydd on Sea

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New Romney Office

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Folkestone Asking Price £79,995

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Whitfield

£275,000

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Dover £137,500

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Viewing recommended. Popular location. Three bedroom semi detached house with central heating and double glazing. Lounge. Kitchen/Diner. Bathroom. Rear Garden. Side access.

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Eythorne £290,000

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Folkestone 01303 259211

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 folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

WHITFIELD

Dover 01304 201806

£260,000

CHAIN FREE.

This detached family home is situated in the sought after location of Whitfield which offers local shops and schools and access to the A2.

The accommodation comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, L shape lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room and conservatory to the ground floor with three bedrooms, one en-suite and family bathroom on the first floor.

There are gardens to the front and rear and a garage.



SANDGATE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£200,000

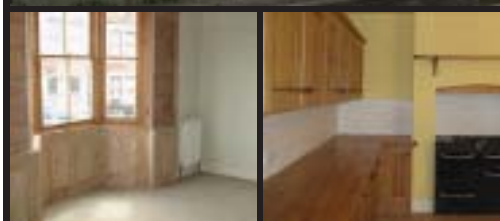
A Grade 2 listed character cottage just a short distance from the seafront in Sandgate.

The property has been professionally refurbished and restored and is presented in very good order throughout and with many attractive period features.

There are three bedrooms, three reception rooms, a computer room, two stylish bathrooms and a kitchen, utility room and a downstairs cloakroom.

Available to view today.

No onward chain.



DOVER

Dover 01304 201806

£125,000

Three bedroom terraced house. Integrated garage, c/heating system, double glazing, kitchen/diner and garage to the ground floor, lounge, bedroom 3 & bathroom to

the first floor & two double bedrooms to the second floor. Garden.



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FOLKESTONE

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£120,000

Terrace home with two double bedrooms, a through lounge diner, a separate kitchen off the dining area and a modern upstairs bathroom. To the rear there is a courtyard

garden.



DOVER

Dover 01304 201806

£150,000

Set over three floors, lounge, dining room & kitchen to the ground floor, two bedrooms & bathroom, a second wc on the split level leading to the second floor

which includes two more double bedrooms. Double glazing, central heating system, off road parking and a rear garden with patio area & lawn.



HYTHE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£370,000

Modern detached home located in quiet cul de sac. Four bedrooms, two reception rooms, 16ft conservatory, main family bathroom plus en suite, cloakroom and

double garage. Beautifully kept and very nicely established rear garden.



DOVER

Dover 01304 201806

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £155,000

Four bedroom mid terrace character property with two reception rooms, double glazing, gas central heating and garden.



EYTHORNE

Dover 01304 201806

£240,000

Very well presented three bedroom semi detached chalet bungalow. Conservatory, en suite shower room, garage, ample off road parking.



HAWKINGE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£180,000

Four bedroom house. Ground floor entrance/conservatory, lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, bathroom, 2nd conservatory to the rear. Driveway, off road parking.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

Fixed Price £200,000

Three bedroom semi detached property with the lounge/diner, kitchen and shower room to the lower ground and three bedrooms and bathroom to the second. Garage.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211

£150,000

No chain. Ground floor West End apartment. Two large bedrooms. A 21ft x 14ft lounge diner. Off road parking. Private access to the side. We strongly advise early viewing.



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PART-TIME KITCHEN ASSISTANT

Required from late September 2010. Duties will include distribution of food for the evening meals to residential staff, washing up returned dishes and general kitchen cleaning. The hours are 3.30pm to 7.00pm every Monday to Thursday and 3.30pm to 7.00pm on alternate Fridays. This is an average of 15.75 hours per week and is term time only.

The salary is at Kent Scheme Band 2 points 4 to 7 which is £4529 to £4949 per year (£6.69 to £7.31 per hour).

Stone Bay School is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children and employees are required to have an enhanced CRB disclosure.

If you are interested in applying for this post please phone (01843 863421), e-mail (finance@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk) or write to Mrs Ann Hickmott, Stone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1EB for an application form. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 1st September 2010, and interviews will be held the following week.



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For job description and application form please contact:
Mandy Oliver or Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 • Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com
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Closing Date: Monday 9th August 2010

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Application packs will be sent to those leaving a name / address clearly on 01227 784694 or please email mrsdawn.williams@virgin.net.

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Closing date: Friday 6 August 2010
Interview Dates: Thursday 12 August/Friday 13 August 2010

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Salary: c40K per annum
Medway

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Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will
hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20 August 2010

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD THE WEEK COMMENCING 30 AUGUST 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or
health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information
regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their
website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and
volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the
College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.
For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all
communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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To advertise in this section 01303 817040



NAS KENT SERVICES - GRAVESEND

The National Autistic Society is a charity which runs special schools and adult centres throughout the country and provides a range of support services for people with autism and their carers.

Does 'difference' attract you? Can you accept that each bit of progress may bring a new problem? Are you willing to adapt your natural style of social interaction? Have you got high levels of imagination? Are you prepared to work in a team?

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A fantastic opportunity for a focused individual to take on the role of house senior working in Gravesend.

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If you have the ability to lead and motivate others with good communication skills both written and verbal and you wish for the opportunity to step up to a new challenge please phone 01474 535057 for an application form and job description.

Applications are sought from all suitably qualified sections of the community but particularly welcome from those with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

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Lecturer in Travel and Tourism

Ref: P0154

Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 per annum/pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)

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CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 4 August 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Deal Town Hall, High Street, Deal**
Applicant: **Michael Osborne**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey, Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



Mr Richard John Wright Deceased

Pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Richard John Wright Deceased, late of Romney Cottage, Clarke Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8PB, who died on the 12 May 2009, are required to send particulars thereof to the undersigned Solicitors to the Personal Representatives of the Estate of Richard John Wright on or before the 01 October 2010, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims then notified.

DATED this 28th July 2010

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Ref: BT/RW/P2956/Wright

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CRICKET

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent League Division One

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Beckenham 1st XI

A FAILURE with the bat saw Sandwich Town slip to a losing draw against Beckenham, meaning they fell out of the Division One promotion places.

The hosts were unable to replicate a huge partnership in Beckenham's innings, which proved to be the decisive contribution of the match.

Beckenham were put into bat and, led by Chris Isles, they made a good start.

The visitors had 52 runs on the board when Craig Spanton made the first breakthrough, but it did little to help Sandwich's cause.

Isles was joined by Raza Ali Dar (73) and the pair put on a second wicket stand worth 142.

Only Alan Amos (3 for 49) was able to make an impact with the ball, finally removing Isles for 121.

A half-century from Vishaul Singh kept Sandwich's hopes alive after an indifferent start, but no one else could pass 30.

Losing five wickets for 32 runs, the priority switched from a run chase to merely avoiding defeat, which they managed.

The defeat allowed Sandwich to be leapfrogged by Blackheath, who moved up to second with a win at Ashford.

There are only six points between the two sides and Sandwich will fancy their chances of getting back to winning ways when they visit bottom-placed Harvel on Saturday.

Sandwich leapfrogged by visitors after poor display



COSTLY: Sandwich's batsmen struggled on Saturday in a losing draw with Beckenham, which saw the visitors take top spot in the league

SCORE CARD

Beckenham 1st XI

	Runs
Chris Isles ct Lawrence b Amos	121
Jason Billimoria ct Singh b Spanton	11
Raza Ali Dar b Amos	73
Johan Malcolm ct Singh b Amos	13
James Evans not out	6
Ollie Waite run out	0
Duncan Spencer not out	0
Ross Piller did not bat	
Ankit Patel did not bat	
Ashley Forde did not bat	
Mudit Dayal did not bat	

Extras (4b 7lb 1w)	12
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs)	236

Picture: IOR KUPCO

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	15	2	63	1
Tom Chapman	7	0	31	0
Matthew van Poppel	11	2	48	0
Alan Amos	12	1	49	3
Oliver Robinson	5	0	34	0

Sandwich Town 1st XI

	Runs
Craig Snell ct Evans b Forde	16
David Scoggins b Ali Dar	0
Robert Goatham lbw b Patel	23
Vishaul Singh st Spencer b Dayal	53
Oliver Robinson ct Spencer b Malcolm	28
Stuart Smith not out	23
Tom Chapman ct Waite b Malcolm	1
Gavin Lawrence ct Spencer b Malcolm	5
Craig Spanton b Malcolm	1
Matthew van Poppel not out	0
Alan Amos did not bat	

Extras (2b 2lb 8nb)	12
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	163

Bowlers

	6	0	37	1
Ashley Forde	15	6	27	1
Raza Ali Dar	8	1	40	1
Ankit Patel	15	3	44	4
Johan Malcolm	6	1	22	1
Mudit Dayal				

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 2ND XI

Folkestone 2nd XI v Hythe 2nd XI

HYTHE 2nds moved closer to clinching promotion as they battled to win a low-scoring game with neighbours Folkestone 2nds by three wickets.

After a solid start Folkestone's innings fell away dramatically once openers Anthony Stanley (20) and Nick Graham (18) were dismissed. There were four ducks further down the order as the hosts were all out for only 122.

The Hythe reply was built around a stoical effort from Nigel Pichowski. The number four faced 140 balls for his 24 runs as the visitors inched to victory in the 58th over.

Folkestone 2nd XI

	Runs
Anthony Stanley	20
Nick Graham	18
Nathan Smith	5
Adam Hasitlow	9
Peter Turnbull	10
Laurence Ward	0
Biff Sharrock	0
Ryan Hall	0
Bradley Goodsell	5
Harry Dawes	0
Henry Axon	0
Extras (7b 1lb 18w 1nb)	27
Total (all out, 35 overs)	122

	0	M	R	W
Patrick Owen	4	0	28	0
Joe Sheppard	8	2	31	4
Matthew Eccles	7	1	18	2
Josh Connolly	10	3	18	1
Stefan Pichowski	6	1	19	2

Hythe 2nd XI

	Runs
Bob Phillips	8
Paul Goddard	11
Josh Connolly	28
Nigel Pichowski	24
Richard Chappell	0
Phil Hoyland	19
Christopher Duncombe	12
Stefan Pichowski	6
Joe Sheppard	0
Patrick Owen	0
Matthew Eccles	0
Extras (5lb 8w 2nb)	15
Total (7 wickets, 57.1 overs)	123

	0	M	R	W
Adam Hasitlow	17	3	56	7
Ryan Hall	10	5	18	0
Nathan Smith	17.1	10	19	0
Bradley Goodsell	6	1	13	0
Peter Turnbull	7	3	7	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sibton Park 1st XI v Whitstable 1st XI

LEAGUE leaders Sibton Park extended their advantage, but needed a dramatic late burst to beat Whitstable by three runs.

Batting first, the home side set about posting a competitive score as their top order all made runs. Andy Allon, Tom Payne and Steve Hickmott all hit half centuries to make up for a handful of disappointing scores in the middle order.

Whitstable's challenge rested almost entirely on Byron Gould's 81 and they were edged closer by Jake Guinan (37). With just seven runs needed they still had two wickets in hand, until a late twist handed Park victory, thanks largely to Allon's 5 for 76.

Sibton Park 1st XI

	Runs
Tim Bishop	35
Andy Allon	60
Tom Payne	60
Ben Allon	3
Steve Hobbs	4
Steve Hickmott	50
Steven Rowe	2
Daniel Lodge	6
Mark Dobson	0
Tim Smith	0
Gareth Meers	0
Extras (6b 1lb 14w)	21
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	241

	0	M	R	W
James Mills	10	0	65	1
Max Campbell	14	2	56	0
Josh Gould	13	1	54	2
Jack Crouch	4	0	21	0
Elliot Lewis	7	2	25	1
Amadou Ainscough	2	0	13	2

Whitstable 1st XI

	Runs
Max Campbell	12
Seth Simmons	16
Amadou Ainscough	33
Byron Gould	81
James Loader	2
Jake Guinan	37
Jack Crouch	0
James Mills	19
Elliot Lewis	15
Josh Gould	0
Extras (1b 7lb 7w 2nb)	17
Total (all out, 49 overs)	238

	0	M	R	W
Steven Rowe	14	1	62	4
Tim Smith	10	2	23	0
Andy Allon	15	1	76	5
Gareth Meers	7	0	37	0
Tim Bishop	3	0	32	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

OD CUACO 1st XI v Betteshanger Colliery 1st XI

BETTESHANGER Colliery's batsmen failed to post a decent score against OD CUACO as they went down by four wickets.

The innings began badly, with the openers returning to the pavilion after adding just seven runs between them.

Andrew McNicolas led the resistance with 57, but none of his team-mates could follow suit as Betteshanger were all out for 161.

OD CUACO got off to a good start and Gary Williamson carried his bat with 58 not out. McNicolas and Clive Towe took two wickets each, but Alex Lake's 31 saw the home side to victory.

Betteshanger Colliery Welfare 1st XI

	Runs
Clive Towe	5
Chris Garton	2
Liam Collins	19
Jamie Towe	11
Andrew McNicolas	57
Michael McNicolas	57
Martin Jones	0
Edward Dadd	8
Steven King	13
Steve McNicolas	0
Ryan Jenmett	3
Extras (6b 1lb 5w 13nb)	25
Total (all out, 43.3 overs)	161

	0	M	R	W
Alex Lake	8	4	22	2
Steve Wright	15	5	39	2
Tim Smedley	11	1	50	2
David Mew	6.3	1	27	4
Simon Hunter	3	0	16	0

OD CUACO 1st XI

	Runs
Gary Williamson	58
Ben Webster	21
David Mew	0
Steve Giddins	24
Aaron White	0
Nilesh Patel	4
Toby Webster	0
Alex Lake	31
Simon Hunter	0
Tim Smedley	0
Steve Wright	0
Extras (13b 5lb 2nb)	24
Total (6 wickets, 45 overs)	162

	0	M	R	W
Andrew McNicolas	15	6	41	2
Jamie Towe	9	1	47	1
Clive Towe	13	4	28	2
Michael McNicolas	8	1	28	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Deal Victoria & Barns Close 1st XI v Bickley Park 3rd XI

DEAL Victoria's bowlers got them out of jail after defending a low total to beat Bickley Park 3rds by 26 runs.

In difficult batting conditions most of the home side's batsmen made promising starts before getting out cheaply.

Without anyone making a significant contribution they were left in big trouble as the tail meekly surrendered.

Chasing just 145 for victory, Bickley made a hash of their reply, slipping to 23 for 5.

They staggered on to 118 all out, with Scott McNamara the pick of an excellent bowling unit with 4 for 18.

Deal Victoria & Barns Close 1st XI

	Runs
Andrew Furness	3
Ben Smith	18
David Gibb	29
Shane Beu	25
Stephen Moran	24
Robbie Brannan	14
Leigh Walker	16
Ryan Taylor	0
Scott McNamara	0
Graham McNamara	1
Josh Blacker	4
Extras (2lb 7w 1nb)	10
Total (all out, 41.5 overs)	144

	0	M	R	W
Matthew Johnson	10	2	39	2
Martin Howard	5	0	27	0
Chris Lycett	5	1	26	1
Dave Neville	11	1	37	3
Sam Hardy	7	5	9	0
Christopher Hewitt	3.5	3	4	3

Bickley Park 3rd XI

	Runs
Sean Keyes	11
Chris Lycett	0
Parag Patel	5
Christopher Hewitt	5
Stuart Barnett	0
Matthew Brooking	24
Sam Hardy	29
Alex Gariff	16
Martin Howard	7
Matthew Johnson	1
Dave Neville	5
Extras (7b 5lb 3nb)	15
Total (all out, 43.1 overs)	118

	0	M	R	W
Scott McNamara	12	7	18	4
Stephen Moran	15	3	28	2
Graham McNamara	10	2	42	2
Shane Beu	6.1	0	18	2

Whites boss looks set to dip into the loan market

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

DOVER Athletic boss Martin Hayes says he may dip into the loan market if unable to find the players he wants to sign before the start of the season.

The Whites manager has been frantically trying to construct his new-look squad during pre-season, but despite there being just over a week before the start of the new season he is not panicking over the lack of new signings.

One of Hayes' main areas he wishes to strengthen is his side's options out wide with only one out-and-out winger in James Rogers at the club.

The Whites boss has used several wingers in pre-season, with the latest being former Ebbsfleet United winger Ishmael Welsh and ex-Northampton winger Joe Benjamin.

Although the Conference South season begins on August 14, Hayes admitted he will move into the loan market if he cannot find the type of player he is looking to sign on a permanent basis.

He said: "It's well documented I am looking to strengthen out wide, but I will only make a decision once I have found the right kind of players I'm looking for."

"I admit I would have liked to have all the



WAITING: Ex-Ebbsfleet United winger Ishmael Welsh and ex-Northampton winger Joe Benjamin who are both on trial

players I want in place by now, but I'm not panicking. I don't want to sign players for the sake of it. I've got a couple more players coming down to look at, but if I'm not happy then we may have to take someone on-loan."

On Saturday the Whites suffered their second defeat in pre-season by losing 1-0 to Ryman Premier League side Carshalton Athletic.

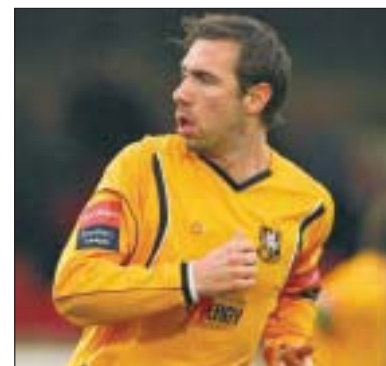
The game was settled by an own goal from triallist Bobby Aison on the stroke of half-time.

A Ricardo Joseph cross was met by the defender and instead of clearing the danger, he flicked the ball past Ross Flitney into the net.

Hayes continues to run his eye over striker Elliot Charles who played 90 minutes and Luke l'Anson who featured in the second-half. The Dover boss is yet to decide whether to offer contracts to the pair.

The Whites play their final pre-season game at home to Cray Wanderers on Friday.

FOOTBALL



BRACE: Simon Austin scored twice against Lordswood

Seasiders' boss sees light pre-season as not such a bad thing

FOLKESTONE Invicta continued their good start to pre-season with a 4-1 win at Kent League side Lordswood on Saturday.

Liam Dickson gave the visitors a slender lead at half-time, before Simon Austin struck twice to cancel out a goal from former Chatham striker Dominic Elmes.

Josh Vincent added a fourth before the end to wrap up a straightforward victory.

Due to Invicta having to cancel their home games because of work over-running on their pitch, it was only the Seasiders' second run-out of the summer.

Neil Cugley, Invicta's manager, was pleased with the display and thinks the relatively light schedule in pre-season could help his small squad.

He said: "We did what we wanted. We're basically just trying to keep it ticking along, we don't want to go too mad. People like Jimmy Dryden and Paul Jones have been out for a long time now and we just don't want to push them too hard."

The line-up included two triallists at wing-back. Olly Bartrum, a former Gillingham youngster, spent time on loan at Cheriton Road last season, while the left-sided Luke Webb has come in from the local leagues. Both did well, but Cugley is not sure whether he has room to offer them deals for the new Ryman Premier season.

He said: "We're still waiting to see with the finances. Hopefully we'll be stronger, we've got a bit more depth and competition for places than last year, which is important. We're not going to be able to get away with such a small squad as we did last year - going up a division you need fresh legs coming off the bench."

Invicta will look to step up their preparations this Saturday when they visit Leatherhead, the side they beat on penalties in last season's play-off semi-final.

GOLF



Picture: ADY KERRY

DISAPPOINTING: Karen Stupples failed to make the cut

Struggling Stupples misses cut at Open

AN INDIFFERENT opening two rounds saw Karen Stupples miss the cut at the Ricoh Women's British Open last weekend.

The 37-year-old from Deal went into the tournament at Royal Birkdale in reasonable form after sharing 43rd place at the Evian Masters a week earlier.

After a bogey at the second, her opening round was brought to life by holing her approach shot for an eagle two at the third hole. It proved to be the only time the 2004 champion was under par for the whole tournament and three bogeys saw her reach the turn at two-over-par.

Another three shots were dropped on the back nine in a five-over-par round of 77. Needing a fast start in the second round to make the cut, Stupples bogeyed the third and then a double bogey at the eighth effectively ended her challenge.

The world number 63 made three birdies coming home, but carded a 75 to finish on eight-over-par, three shots away from making the cut.

After a week's break Stupples will play in the Wales Ladies Championship of Europe in Conwy, which she won last year.

Porter eyes additions to boost Hythe's title charge

FOOTBALL

DESPITE signing Damian Abel last week, Hythe Town boss Scott Porter has not ruled out making further additions to his squad ahead of the start of the Kent League season this weekend.

The forward was expected to remain at Faversham Town, where he played a role in their Kent League title-winning side last season. Instead Abel, a long-term target for Porter, appeared in Hythe's 3-1 win against Maidstone United last week and signed on for a second spell at the club after the game.

Abel's arrival strengthens an impressive-looking squad at Reachfields. Last season's squad has remained intact and been supplemented with Lee Shearer, Brendon Cass and Gary Mickelborough, who scored in a 3-1 defeat to Chatham Town on Saturday.

Porter, whose side begin their Kent League campaign away to VCD Athletic on Saturday, is open about the possibility of more signings in a bid to win the title.

He said: "You never know, if there are other people available we'll always look to strengthen because it's a long old season. Maybe we'll look for something else, we don't know yet."

Deal Town, meanwhile, entertain Lordswood as they return to league action on Saturday, but preparations for Derek Hares' side have not run as smoothly as the manager may have liked.

Having recorded an impressive 2-0 win over Basingstoke Town, Deal then slipped to



Picture: TOM GRAY

RETURN: Damian Abel is back at Hythe Town

successive home defeats in the space of five days, conceding nine goals and offering none in reply.

A 4-0 home reverse against Whitstable Town last Tuesday was followed by a 5-0 defeat to Billericay Town on Saturday and Hares will hope to start with a clean slate on the opening weekend of the Kent League season.

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New signing Adebayo Akinfenwa on why he opted to join Gillingham



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